

13 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been an excellent start to the school year at Mulberry UTC and I am immensely proud of all that your child and our staff have already achieved. I wanted to write to you now with some information about upcoming events in our calendar.

Open Evening (19 October 4.30-6.30pm)

This coming Thursday is the first of our Open Evenings this year. This means the school will close at the slightly earlier time of **3pm on 19 October** to give staff time to prepare for the event.

The main purpose of the event is to attract new students to the UTC, but if you as parents would like to use this as an opportunity to look round then please feel free to join us! This will be particularly relevant if you are a current Year 11 parent and are considering the UTC for Year 12. We will also be asking lots of students to stay and help us to make the evening a success.

Non Uniform Day (20 October)

We are raising money for charity on the final day of this half term with a non uniform day. Students should pay £1 to come in without uniform/Sixth Form dress code. They can pay their £1 anytime next week in advance of Friday, or just bring their £1 on the day.

Half Term (Mon 23 October – Friday 3 November)

All Mulberry schools operate an Autumn half term where students are not expected to be on school site for *two weeks*. The first week of this period is a holiday for everyone and we hope that your child enjoys it and gets some well-deserved rest.

The second week of the half term is our 'Remote Learning Week'. Teachers will set extensive home study to be completed during this week and will upload this work to Teams. Students should complete all the work set as it is vital preparation for the half term ahead.

School will be open in the second week of the half term for the following:

Tuesday 31 October – Friday 3 November – School is open from 10am to 2pm for any student who wants to work on their remote learning tasks here with us rather than at home. No uniform is required and if students sign up in advance then lunch can be provided. To sign your child up for this please email dseed@mulberryschoolstrust.org.

Tuesday 31 October – Year 10 Sports and Fun Day with Mr Henshaw. If Year 10 students would like to come into school on that day for Sports and Games with our wonderful PE teacher then they are very welcome from 10am to 3pm. Students must sign up in advance, lunch will be provided and

students should come with sports clothes on. To sign your Year 10 child up for this please email chenshaw@mulberryschoolstrust.org.

Wednesday 1 November – Friday 3 November – There will be Health and Social Care revision classes, you will receive a personal letter if your child is invited to these.

Mock Exams

We are holding mock exams next half term for Years 11 and 13, these are from **27 November – 1 December**. These exams are a vital opportunity for students to see what they need to work on in advance of summer GCSEs and A-Levels. They will also form the basis of predicted grades for college and University applications. The work set during Remote Learning Week (see above) will help to prepare students for this and their exam timetables for the week will be released next week.

Y10 and 12 will have mock exams from **8 January 12 January**. We will write with more details of these nearer to the time.

Parents' Evenings and Events

Immediately after the half term we will be giving all parents and carers the log in details for an app called 'Edulink'. Your child already uses this to check their timetable, attendance and behaviour/achievement points. Once you have access, you will be able to check these things for your child. It will be a really useful way to keep updated on your child's progress at the UTC. We will be holding a parents' information evening on using Edulink and also on e-safety for your child. Date below along with dates for our upcoming Parents' Evenings.

- All Year Groups Parents Information Evening – using the Edulink app and e-safety **Thursday November 16th 4.30-5.30pm**
- Year 11 Parents' Evening – meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress **Wednesday 13 December 4.30-6.30pm**
- Year 13 Parents' Evening – meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress **Thursday 21 December 4.30-6.30pm**

The Importance of Attendance

There is a great deal of research that shows the clear link between achievement and attendance. The more your child is at school, the better they will do. Students with attendance over 95% generally do one grade better than students with attendance below 85%. We will be writing to parents next week to update you on your child's attendance this half term, we will also be contacting parents/carers individually where attendance is a concern. We want to support and assist and will work with you constructively to get your child where they need to be – in the UTC and studying for their future.

Speakers and Experiences

We have a range of speakers coming into school including the Executive Producer of the X-Factor and the Head of Policy at an NHA think tank. Look out for more information. We are planning university taster days for all Year 12 students to take place before the Christmas holidays and again we will write with more information nearer the time. We are also in the middle of planning work experience for Years 10 and 12. So next half term promises to be another exciting and busy half term at the UTC.

Many thanks for all your support as parents/carers. If you would like to get in touch with me about the contents of this letter or any other matter then please write directly dseed@mulberryschooltrust.org. I'm always happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Seed
Principal