

9 October 2024

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 (24 October 4.30-6.30pm)

Thursday 24 October is the first of our Open Evenings this year. This means the school will close at the slightly earlier time of **3pm on 24 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.

We will be asking lots of the students to act as ambassadors for us, so look out for a permission slip that you may need to sign so that your child can come and help us on the evening.

Friday 25 October

School will close at 12.20 on this day at the end of this particularly long half term. Free school meal lunchboxes will be available for students to collect if they would like them.

Half Term (Mon 28 October – Friday 8 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:

Monday 4 – Friday 8 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.

Mock Exams

We are holding mock exams next half term for Years 11 and 13, these are from **18-29 November**. 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 will have mock exams from **6-10 January**. We will write with more details of these nearer to the time.

Parents' Evenings and Events

- Year 11 & 14 Parents' Evening – meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress
Wednesday 18 December 3.00pm-7.00pm

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 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.

Mulberry Festival of Performing Arts

This is a major event across the Mulberry Trust which we are honoured to host every year at Mulberry UTC. Our students will be displaying their artwork and taking part in a range of performances. If you would like to come along then tickets are free but must be reserved using the [ticket link here](#).

Speakers and Experiences

We have a range of speakers coming into school and trips going out next half term. 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@mulberryschoolstrust.org. I'm always happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Seed
Principal