Mulberry Schools Trust

SPECIAL REPORT
COVID-19

3rd April 2020

New Ways of Working

For the past fortnight, we have had to adjust to new ways of working in the Mulberry Schools Trust.

We have set up three projects, each designed to fulfil a different need in our school system right now in this period of national crisis.

First, we have our **Remote Learning School**, keeping the education of our students as a top priority through online teaching and school leadership.

Second, we have our **Emergency Field School**, a hub for all three schools in the Trust for targeted students under government guidance.

Third, in response to requests for support, we have established **The Mulberry Food and Care Essentials Bank**. Stockpiling, by some, means supermarket shelves are often stripped of basic essentials, causing difficulty for many.

This Special Report shines a light on what Mulberry staff have been doing to respond – with the help of our trustees and the many 'Friends of Mulberry' who have generously supported us over time.

Dr Vanessa Ogden
Headteacher and CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust

Mulberry Food & Care Essentials Bank

On Thursday 2nd April 2020, the Mulberry Schools Trust opened its first distribution of food and care essentials packs.

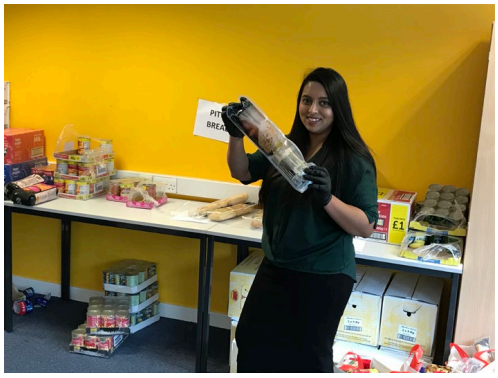
The initiative started only a fortnight ago, when we became aware of a growing problem of access to basic essentials such as sanitary products, nappies, baby milk and staple foods such as rice, pasta, flour, eggs etc.

A fundraising page quickly attracted over £7K in donations, however we struggled to find a supplier. Through our friend Pinky Lilani, Tesco were contacted and we were put in touch with their wholesaler, Booker. Charles Wilson, CEO, rode to the rescue, becoming our supplier and donating £2K. (Cont.)

Emergency Field School

The Mulberry Schools Trust's three schools have formed a hub at Mulberry School for Girls to deliver our offer for the children of key workers.

Students have been following an engaging programme of creative, active and academic learning. Pictured above is our school therapy dog, Rosie, who lapped up all the attention.



The school is staffed with Mulberry staff and we have our DSL on site every day.

Students entitled to free school meals can collect a 5 day food bag from Monday 6th April with enough food to make 5 lunches. The government gives us access to their voucher scheme after the Easter break.

Food & Care Essentials Bank (cont)

Our food packs contain a variety of food stocks for families. Care essentials packs include toothpaste, washing gels, soaps, sanitary products and much more. We have limited baby care packs that include nappies and baby wipes. Baby food and milk can be requested from a small set of stock. If at any time during this ongoing crisis, you would like to use this service, please contact Shanaz Jameson on sjameson@mulberryschoolstrust.org or telephone 020 7790 6327 and speak to reception.

Thanks must go to Mulberry staff Mary Davies, who has spearheaded this initiative, Shanaz Jameson who has supported her and our team of dedicated shoppers and packers including Colin McCabe, Afsana Begum, Oliver Creed, Ian James, Cassie Pitts, Pani Matsangos, Jennie Montgomerie, Ruhena Begum, Ruhena's son Ehsaan Alam, Jane Johnson and Runa Hoque. Mary's family deserve a special mention, including her son Jack Forey. All have volunteered.

Special thanks must also go to Charles Wilson of Booker, for his generous support and great staff; the CEO of Tesco, Dave Lewis; Pinky Lilani; and Sarah Morris – thank you for coming through for us at a time when everyone has been struggling to obtain supplies.

Finally, thanks to all our generous donors, amongst whom are: trustees of the Mulberry Schools Trust; former students and friends of Mulberry; Eddie Coppinger of Bow Foodbank; John Moffat of the Jesuit Society; Ali Ahmed of LBTH; Islamic Relief; Proctor and Gamble; The Hygiene Bank and George Dunstable of the Church of England's Children's Society.

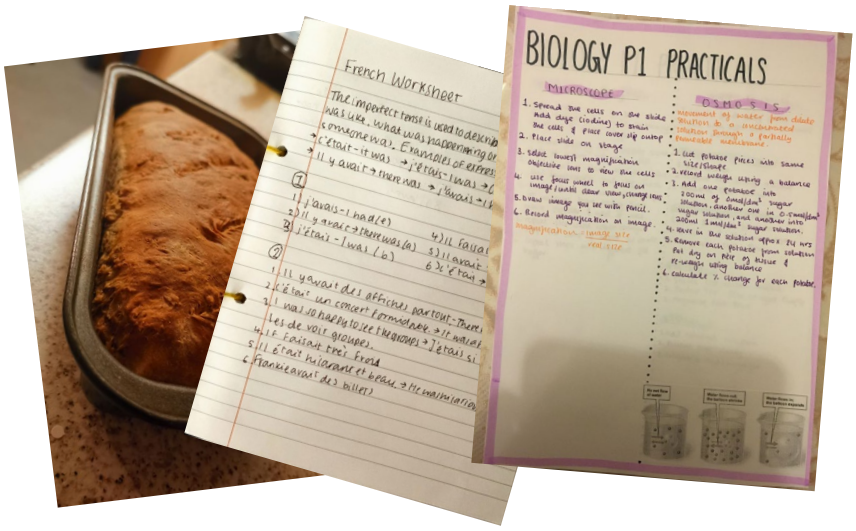
Remote Learning School

A brief summary of remote learning activities across our schools

Remote Learning School will be taking a break during the Easter holidays. It will resume on Monday 20th April 2020. We look forward to being in session again with all students.

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

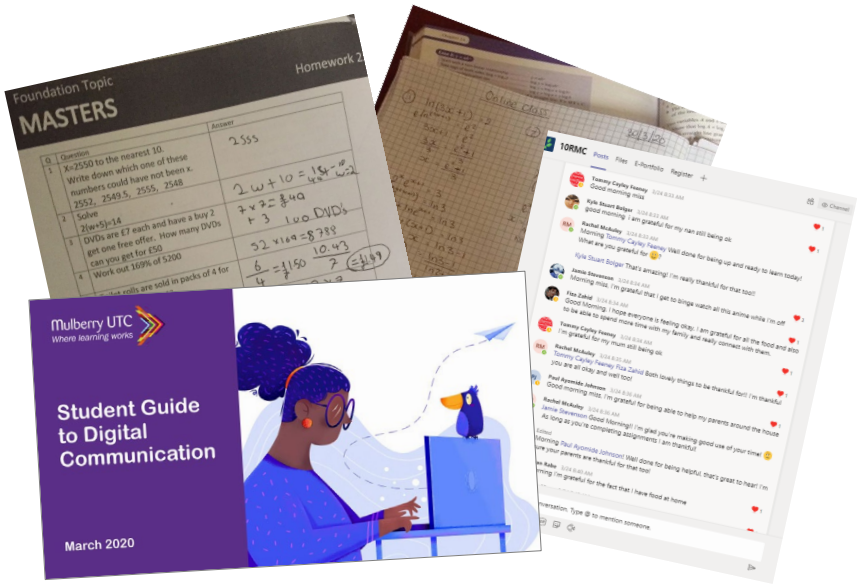
Mulberry Academy Shoreditch embarked on virtual House competitions including *Power of the Pen*, a creative writing competition; *The Great Mulberry Academy Shoreditch Bake Off*, showcasing culinary talents online; and *Isolation Creations*, which welcomed all creativity such as drawings, self-portraits, sketches and photography.



Mulberry School for Girls

50 YEARS OF PIONEERING WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Staff and students at Mulberry School for Girls are in touch; learning, supporting and celebrating with each other remotely every day, from birthdays to baking, learning languages to Maths and Science, reading and sharing poetry, creative challenges and celebrating stars of the day.



Mulberry UTC

Where learning works

Mulberry UTC students have been checking in every morning with their tutors and learning remotely via Microsoft Teams. Teachers have been impressed with how hard students have been working and progressing. They have also benefitted from the school's new online guide to effective digital communication.

Getting ready for sixth form

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch Sixth Form

At Mulberry Academy Shoreditch sixth form we deliver academic excellence and an exceptional student experience at post-16. We have developed our sixth form page on our website to communicate with students about getting ready for September 2020. Students should check the website each week and **apply via the link below.**

www.mulberryacademyshoreditch.org/sixth-form/

Mulberry School for Girls Sixth Form

Students at Mulberry School for Girls sixth form are challenged to think beyond their subjects and to embrace their individual roles and responsibilities as global citizens. We have had a record number of applications for September 2020 and we're looking forward to speaking to every applicant very soon.
Please apply via the link below.

www.mulberryschoolforgirls.org/index.php/apply-for-sixth-form

Mulberry UTC Sixth Form

Mulberry UTC sixth form is unlike any other post-16 provision because we provide a professional, adult learning environment. Our blend of outstanding classroom teaching, on-the-job learning and character building enrichment programme ensures students leave us well prepared to embark on a successful future. **Please apply via the link below.**

www.mulberryutc.org/welcome-to-our-sixth-form/

Supporting our NHS…

To support the national call out, all three schools in the Mulberry Schools Trust donated to the NHS as part of our community work during this time.

We donated goggles, lab coats, disposable aprons and gloves to our local NHS hospitals and centres.

A massive thank you goes to Stuart Faulkner and others from the Premises team at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch who went around in a minibus collecting and delivering all the items.

We have also offered the use of the car park at Mulberry School for Girls to Barts Health NHS Trust should they need it.

…and the support staff who keep our community going

We take a moment to celebrate our support staff.

We want to pause and take a moment to thank our support staff across the three schools, who continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our communities. Despite the challenges of closure, we are still a thriving, active and learning community of people.

Every day, along with teaching staff, our support staff stand ready to serve our families in whatever capacity is required. Administration teams are working hard behind the scenes to ensure families are regularly kept up to date. They are also busy helping to pack and distribute food and essential items, whilst still making those important calls home! Finance teams are attentive to our suppliers needs. They are making sure all are paid promptly, especially small and micro businesses, who rely on every penny to keep their companies afloat. Data teams are still analysing key information to ensure we all remain on track. Lastly, as you can see above, Premises teams are also going the extra mile!

Your support truly strengthens and enriches the Mulberry family. Thank you one and all.

Other important information and updates

Students on Free School Meals

Parents with children on Free School Meals will receive their vouchers after the Easter break.

Students are not entitled to Free School Meal vouchers during the Easter break. However, we will continue to provide a five day lunch bag for collection from Mulberry School for Girls.

Please collect the lunches from the Parkwood Leisure Centre entrance on Mondays between 12pm-2pm.

Foodbank distribution and opening hours during Easter

The Mulberry Food & Care Essentials Bank will distribute packages on Thursdays during the Easter break.

The packages will be available to families who have requested the service.

With the exception of the bank holidays, Mulberry School for Girls will be open between 10.30am-12.30pm if families need to contact us for any reason. Please call 020 7790 6327 if you have any questions or concerns.

REMINDER
REMOTE LEARNING SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON MONDAY 20TH APRIL 2020

Exams update

The government has taken the decision not to go ahead with this summer's exams. We have provided information below issued by the exam boards about how students will be awarded their grades.

1. Ofqual, the organisation who oversee the exam boards, are in the process of setting out a method to provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible.
2. This calculated grade will be based on teachers, who know their students well, submitting their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. Teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence, including performance on mock exams and classwork.
3. Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including student's prior attainment from primary school/secondary school, to produce a calculated grade for each student.
4. The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years and will ensure that students are not disadvantaged. These grades will be received earlier than normal to give students longer to assess their options.
5. Once students have received their grades they will have four options:
   - Accept the grades
   - Appeal the grades
   - Take an exam at the start of the academic year
   - Take an exam at the end of the next academic year

We will keep you updated with any further guidance as soon as we are able to.

Huge thanks to all our families, staff, trustees, governors and the many 'Friends of Mulberry' for all your support. We could not carry out all this important work without you!