



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

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4 June 2020

Dear Parents

## Covid-19: Update 14

### Year 9 Virtual Parent Consultation Meetings

Feedback from the recent Y9 online parent consultation meetings was very positive, in particular parents liked:

- having an opportunity to speak to their child's subject teacher during "lockdown"
- appointments running to time
- being able to discuss their child without others overhearing the conversation
- the length of the appointments
- in most cases, the smooth running of the event. There were some technical glitches but a trouble shooting guide has now been produced to help people address these should they arise again in the future

I would like to thank Ms Bolam, Vice Principal at Walton High's Brooklands campus, for her leadership of this initiative and her response to staff and parents' feedback.

Although the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many parents suggesting that this system should even be used after social distancing measures are no longer needed, we were a little disappointed with the number of parents who made appointments. For Walnut Tree based students the figure was 59%, whilst at the Brooklands campus the figure was only 50%.

Working in partnership with teachers supports the important role parents play in ensuring their child fulfils their potential at school. We therefore hope a higher proportion of parents engage with future consultation events. To support this, we will give a longer lead time for parents to book appointments and contact parents who have not made appointments to see if there are barriers to participation that the school can help remove. We will also review the timing of the sessions whilst also having regard for the work-life balance of teachers which is such an important part of recruitment and retention at a time of significant teacher shortages.

### Government guidance on protective measures schools should adopt

In its *Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings* guidance the Department for Education promotes the following strategies as effective infection protection and control. Below each, is an overview of how Walton High will be implementing these measures:

- ***minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school***

Due the range of symptoms associated with COVID-19, parents will be asked not to send their child to school if they are feeling at all unwell regardless of the symptoms and to have their child tested if recommended.

Thermal cameras have been installed at the entrances to the school's buildings. Anyone with an elevated temperature will have their temperature checked again and sent home if it is still high.

Students and staff feeling unwell during the day will be sent home.

If a student or member of staff tests positive, in line with current guidance (or that in place at the time if different), those who have had contact with this person will have to self-isolate for 14 days.

Other than essential contractors, no visitors will be allowed on site. All meetings with parents and agencies working with students will be held remotely.

- ***cleaning hands more often than usual***

Additional hand wash stations have been ordered and are currently being installed. Everyone on site will be required to wash their hands on arrival and frequently throughout the day.

In rooms where there are no sinks, alcohol based hand sanitiser is available.

- ***ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach***

Parents should ensure their child(ren) is sent to school with a good supply of tissues. For those that run out, a box of tissues is available in every classroom. Students will be reminded of the importance of good respiratory hygiene.

- ***cleaning frequently touched surfaces often***

Students will be able to wipe down their desks, chairs and any shared equipment used in practical lessons with the cleaning materials provided.

- ***minimising contact between people, including the mixing of groups***

Without a doubt, minimising contact between people and the mixing of groups is the biggest challenge for schools. This is because the only way to allow for appropriate social distancing and to limit mixing is to reduce the number of children in the school at any one time. Below are our proposals for giving Year 10 and Year 12 some face-to-face contact from the week beginning 15 June.

As with all schools, we have no information regarding what the situation will be in September other than speculation in the media. We are currently planning for a range of scenarios and will share our thinking with parents in the near future as we would welcome your feedback.

### **Year 10 face-to-face support**

The Government has stated that due to the precarious state of virus transmission nationally, it wants schools to have no more than 25% of Year 10 and Year 12 on site at any one time. It should be noted that the reasons for this are not because students or staff would be unsafe in school if more should return but because:

*We cannot return more pupils to secondary school at this time. This position will be kept under review, and further advice will be provided as and when needed. One of the key reasons for this is because we know older pupils generally travel further to school and are more likely to use public transport to travel to and from school. The latest government advice is to avoid public transport as far as possible and to walk or cycle instead to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. Numbers of secondary pupils must also be limited because we know older pupils are more likely to have a wider group of social contacts outside of school.<sup>i</sup>*

The concerns expressed in the guidance have implications for how students get to and from school and the need for them to strictly follow social distancing rules whilst travelling in order to keep their family safe. If parents are unable to drop off and pick up their child in their own car, they need to impress upon their child

the importance of responsible behaviour whilst walking and cycling but especially if they have to use public transport which is seen as the least safe option.

The Year 10 cohort has been split into four groups, with each group attending **one extended day a week** for five weeks. On the day the student attends, they will have a session in every subject they study and will work in class sizes that range from three to ten. This will provide an excellent opportunity for teachers to review the learning that should have taken place in the home study lessons that have been set over the past three months. This will ensure students have a firm foundation for Year 11.

Fridays may be used by practical subjects to complete coursework projects with students attending by invitation.

Monday - Thursday <b>Walnut Tree</b>			w/b 15/06	w/b 22/06	w/b 29/06	w/b 6/07	w/b 12/07
			Y10	Y10	Y10	Y10	Y10
Session 1	08:30	09:20	English	Option F	Option B	Option C	English
Session 2	09:20	10:10	Maths	Option E	Science	Option D	Maths
Break	10:10	10:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 3	10:25	11:15	Science	Option D	Maths	Option E	Science
Session 4	11:15	12:05	Option B	Option C	English	Option F	Option B
LUNCH	12:05	12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Session 5	12:30	13:20	Option C	Option B	Option F	English	Option C
Session 6	13:20	14:10	Option D	Science	Option E	Maths	Option D
Break	14:10	14:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 7	14:25	15:15	Option E	Maths	Option D	Science	Option E
Session 8	15:15	16:05	Option F	English	Option C	Option B	Option F

Y10 divided into 4 cohorts with each cohort attending one day a week. Subjects may use Friday for practical subjects or for students who need additional support

Monday - Thursday <b>Brooklands</b>			w/b 15/06	w/b 22/06	w/b 29/06	w/b 6/07	w/b 12/07
			Y10	Y10	Y10	Y10	Y10
Session 1	08:30	09:20	English	Option L	Option H	Option I	English
Session 2	09:20	10:10	Maths	Option K	Science	Option J	Maths
Break	10:10	10:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 3	10:25	11:15	Science	Option J	Maths	Option K	Science
Session 4	11:15	12:05	Option H	Option I	English	Option L	Option H
LUNCH	12:05	12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Session 5	12:30	13:20	Option I	Option H	Option L	English	Option I
Session 6	13:20	14:10	Option J	Science	Option K	Maths	Option J
Break	14:10	14:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 7	14:25	15:15	Option K	Maths	Option J	Science	Option K
Session 8	15:15	16:05	Option L	English	Option I	Option H	Option L

As this is an excellent opportunity to receive face-to-face support from teachers, **Walton High expects all students to attend**, other than those who are shielding or living with someone who is shielding. To help us finalise the four groups that will attend one day a week, we should be grateful if parents with children in Year 10 would complete the short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LFZ73T2> to advise whether their child will be attending.

## Year 12

The approach taken to providing face-to-face support for Post-16 students is slightly different and is set out below:

<b>Walnut Tree based students</b>			<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
			<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>
Session 1	09:20	10:10	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Break	10:10	10:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 2	10:25	11:15	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Session 3	11:15	12:05	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
LUNCH	12:05	12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Session 4	12:30	13:20	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Session 5	13:20	14:10	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Break	14:10	14:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 6	14:25	15:15	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
<b>No travelling between campuses all lessons on the same site. Where the teacher is teaching a Y10 class, the session becomes a study session for P-16</b>							
<b>Brooklands based students</b>			<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
			<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y12</b>
Session 1	09:20	10:10	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Break	10:10	10:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 2	10:25	11:15	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Session 3	11:15	12:05	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
LUNCH	12:05	12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Session 4	12:30	13:20	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Session 5	13:20	14:10	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Break	14:10	14:25	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Session 6	14:25	15:15	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E

This allows for Post-16 students to have one day a week to focusing on a subject, or in the case of vocational students one course unit.

Again, as for Year 10, we would expect all Year 12 students to attend unless they, or someone they live with are shielding. Where class sizes are larger than 15, lessons will take place in double classrooms or adjoining labs to allow for social distancing. In order to help teachers plan for these sessions it would be helpful to know the likely level of attendance. We should be grateful if parents with children in Year 12 would complete the short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LBZ5MG6> to advise whether their child will be attending.

Further details on the arrangements for Year 10 and Year 12 will follow next week.

As well as providing this onsite support for students, teachers will continue to set work for students in all year groups working at home but may not be available to provide online support if they are working on site with Year 10 and Year 12.

**And finally . . .**

Congratulations to Abigail Kos for winning the MK Mayor's Award 2020 for her local environmental initiatives. You can find out more about Abigail's projects and see Cllr Crooks, Mayor of Milton Keynes, announcing the Award on this YouTube video ([Watch the video](#)).

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Michelle Currie  
Executive Principal

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools#scientific-advice-and-rationale-for-approach>