



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

Brooklands Campus: Fen Street Milton Keynes MK10 7HE

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Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Renu Elston
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11 June 2020

Dear Parents

Covid-19: Update 15

Year 7 and Y12 Virtual Parent Consultation Meetings

Following the positive feedback from parents and teachers on the Year 9 virtual parent meetings pilot, we will be using the same system for Year 7 and Year 12. Parents will be able to book virtual meetings with their child's teacher on these dates:

Year 7 Brooklands campus Monday, 22 June and Wednesday, 24 June

Year 7 Walnut Tree campus Tuesday, 23 June and Thursday, 25 June

Year 12 both campuses Tuesday, 7 July and Thursday, 9 July

Appointments will be available from 16:30-18:30.

A letter will be sent to parents with children in the relevant year groups with more details, including how to log on to the system to make appointments.

Year 10 and Year 12 on-site sessions

Many thanks to the parents who completed the very short questionnaire to let us know whether their child(ren) would be attending the Y10 and Y12 face-to-face sessions over the coming weeks. Unfortunately, only about 50% of parents completed the survey. I am very grateful to the administration team for making over 150 calls to ensure we received the information needed to finalise student timetables and teachers' registers for next week. It is pleasing that most parents feel confident that they can safely send their children to school.

Ms Alexander has written to all Year 10 students setting out the arrangements for welcoming them back, including their timetable for the day they are in school. Mrs Read, Director of Post-16, has done the same for students in Year 12. Parents will receive a copy of the letter and the timetable so they know which day(s) their child is in school.

The letters answer the questions parents raised in response to the questionnaire.

Provisional plans for welcoming back more students

Unfortunately, the Department for Education is still not giving any clear indication of what the situation will be for schools in September and appear to lack any understanding of the amount of time it takes to write a timetable for a very large secondary school.

As a result, the school is planning for a number of different scenarios and we thought parents might appreciate us sharing our thinking. However, please be aware that nothing is set in stone and everything is subject to change!

No social distancing needed

In the event that schools open in September with no social distancing (which at the moment we think is highly unlikely), Walton High will continue with the usual class sizes and a five session day. However, there will be some changes to the timings of the day to allow for a split lunch. You may recall that earlier this year I advised parents that as a result of the very wet winter the school was struggling to provide students with enough indoor social space on rainy days and was investigating ways to address this problem. Our proposed solution is set out in [Annex A](#). This structure will halve the number of students at lunch at any one time thus reducing the time taken to be served and increasing the availability of seating in the café and reducing pressure on other social space.

At the moment it seems likely that some degree of social distancing will be required in September. However, it is our sincere hope that all students will be allowed to return one way or another and this is what we are planning for.

To create the additional space needed per person to allow for social distancing, the school would have to reduce the number of students on site at any one time. This can be achieved by using a rota and, if further reductions are needed, a shift system.

The table below shows the effect a rota and shift system has on the number of students on site.

	No Social Distancing All students on campus	Social Distancing 50% of students on campus	Social Distancing Between 33% and 25% of students on campus	
	Maximum number on each campus	One week on site One week off site	Morning and afternoon shift	
	All day	Maximum number	Morning	Afternoon
Year 7	240	120	120	
Year 8	240	120	120	
Year 9	240	120	120	
Year 10	240	120		120
Year 11	240	120		120
Year 12	150	150		150
Year 13	150	150	150	
Autumn Term	1,500	900	510	390

Social distancing needed – 50% of students

If 50% of students in all year groups are allowed to attend, the school would keep the same timetable as shown in Annex A but students would attend on a rota basis, i.e. one week in school and one week learning at home. This is referred to as blended learning. This would enable class sizes to be reduced to a maximum of 15 students allowing for social distancing in the classroom. However, if the 2m rule remains in place, the total number of students in school at any one time would make maintain social distancing whilst moving round the building and at break and lunchtime a challenge, if not impossible.

Vulnerable children and some others would not be on the rota and therefore expected to attend both weeks.

Social distancing needed – between 33% and 25% of students on site at any one time

To further reduce the number of students on site, the week on week off rota could be combined with a shift system where certain year groups attend either in the morning or the afternoon.

This is a more complex scenario and will involve a number of changes that are outlined below.

To continue with a broad and balanced curriculum in school and at home, if students attend either a morning or afternoon shift every other week it would be necessary to:

- change the current curriculum model to ensure each subject has the same number of lessons both weeks
- shorten the length of sessions to ensure the length of the working day for teachers and support staff was reasonable

Changing the number of lessons each subject has, as well as the length of sessions, would give teachers the time needed to plan for both in school and at home learning. This would ensure the best possible student experience in the circumstances whilst also managing teacher workload.

Proposed revised curriculum model if maximum social distancing was needed

SUBJECT	KS3 sessions Existing	KS3 sessions Proposed		KS4 sessions Existing	KS4 sessions Proposed
English	8	6	English	8	6
Maths	7	6	Maths	8	6
Science	5	4	Science	10	8
Geography	3	2	Humanities	4	4
History	3	2	Option 1	4	4
Philosophy	3	2	Option 2	4	4
MFL	5	4	Option 3	4	4
PE	4	2	Option 4	4	4
Music	2	2	Core PE	4	0
Drama/Dance	4	2			
Computing/ICT	2	2	Total:	50	40
KS3 Creative & Practical	4	4			
Total:	50	38			

Post-16	Existing	Proposed
All options	8	8

In Key Stage 4, instead of core PE, teachers will provide students with an individual fitness programme to complete at home. A home fitness programme will also be given to students in Key Stage 3 as we appreciate the importance of physical fitness to mental wellbeing.

Childcare for critical workers

If more children are attending school in a socially distanced way and vulnerable children are attending full time, it is most unlikely that the school will have the capacity to also provide childcare for the most children of critical workers. As a result, these families will be in the same position as other parents whose children may be alternating between attending school and studying from home.

Parent Feedback

As mentioned, nothing is set in stone but we cannot wait any longer for the Government to provide clarity on their expectations for September which, in terms of school weeks, is only five weeks away, and still have time to consult with parents.

We appreciate that for many, school organisation may seem very daunting (or even of no interest!) but we thought it important to share this level of detail to give some insight into the challenges we are having to manage whilst trying to give families as much time as possible to plan should social distancing still be needed in September.

We will of course keep parents informed of which, if any, of the above scenarios we will need to implement in September.

We would very much welcome parents' feedback on these provisional plans via this short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VLFLBFT>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

ANNEX A

Proposed revised school day in September if no social distancing is required

Week A & Week B		Session 1	Session 2	Break	Session 3	Session 4	Tutor Lunch	Lunch Tutor	Session 5	3Es
	07:45 08.30	08.30 09.30	09.30 10.30	10.30 10.45	10.45 11.45	11.45 12.45	12.45 13.15	13.15 13.45	13.45 14.45	14.45 16.30
Monday	Breakfast Club			Break			Y7 Y9 Y11 (P16 Assembly)	Y8 Y10 P-16 (Y7 Assembly)		
Tuesday							Y7 Y9 Y11 (Y8 Assembly)	Y8 Y10 P-16		
Wednesday							Y7 Y9 Y11	Y8 Y10 P-16 (Y9 Assembly)		
Thursday							Y7 Y9 Y11 (Y10 Assembly)	Y8 Y10 P16		
Friday							Y7 Y9 Y11	Y8 Y10 P-16 (Y11 Assembly)		

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