



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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Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Renu Elston
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28 August 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update 18 and beginning of year arrangements and reminders

We hope your children are looking forward to returning to school next week as much as staff are keen to welcome them back.

I have waited until now to send this update to ensure it incorporates all the late changes we anticipated the Government would make before the beginning of term. However, what follows is covered by the usual caveat that things may change again! If, and when, they do, we will of course advise parents of what this means for students attending Walton High.

Although this letter is on the lengthy side, it contains important information that all parents should be aware of, so please persevere and read to the end!

BTec and CTec results

Two weeks after they should have been notified, exam boards have at last awarded Post-16 students their final grades but Year 11 are still waiting for theirs.

Throughout the pandemic, Government ministers have been quick to insist that advisers advise and ministers decide. However, it seems that this does not mean that ministers are then held to account or take responsibility for their decisions, as it appears only civil servants are losing their jobs for the decisions of their political masters.

Post-16 enrolment

Walton High's Post-16 continues to be a popular option for students from Walton High wanting to move onto Level 3 courses as well as for many students from other schools. As of this week, 232 students have enrolled with further students expected to sign up before next Thursday.

We look forward to welcoming them next week.

Start of term arrangements

Tuesday 1 September	Year 7 induction	08:30 – 15:00
Wednesday 2 September	Year 8 induction	08:30 – 15:00
Thursday 3 September	Year 9 induction	08:30 – 15:00
Friday 4 September	Year 10 and Year 12 induction and any Year 11 who have not attended the summer term sessions	09:30 – 15:00

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, students should arrive between 07:45 and 08:20. Students scheduled to attend on Friday, should arrive between 08:45 and 09:25.

From Monday, 7 September, all students will return. As above, Years 7, 8 and 9 should arrive between 07:45 and 08:20 for a 08:30 start. Unless told otherwise, Years 10, 11 and Post-16 should arrive between 08:45 and 09:25. Only by prior agreement may Year 10 and 11 students arrive before 08:45. This is to ensure we have the space to accommodate them and enough staff to supervise.

From Monday, 7 September, students in Years 10 and Year will finish at 16:00. Post 16 students' day will end with their last timetabled lesson. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 may only wait for an older sibling by prior arrangement. Again, this is to ensure that we have enough space and staff available. Those parents who requested different arrival and departure times through last term's online survey will receive a letter by Tuesday, 1 September confirming these arrangements.

The option for a student to arrive early or stay late will be revoked if they do not behave in line with expectations.

Breakfast will be available in the morning from 07:45 until 09:15. There will be a selection of items, including a cooked breakfast on Friday. Porridge will continue to be free but there is a charge for toppings.

Access to lockers as students leave at the end of the day will be controlled to avoid overcrowding so it might take them longer than usual to leave the site.

Revised school day

The revised school day that staggers the start and end times, as well as break, lunch and most movement times, is shown below:

Revised School Day
staggered movement times

	Arrival	Session 1	Session 2	Break	Read to Succeed	Session 3	Session 4	Lunch	Tutor	Session 5	Leave
	07:45 08:30	08:30 09:30	09:30 10:30	10:30 10:45	10:45 11:00	11:00 12:00	12:00 12:50	12:50 13:25	13:25 14:00	14:00 15:00	15:00
Y7 Y8 Y9	Y7 Y8 Y9			Break	R2S			Lunch	Tutor PSHE		
	Arrival	Session 2	Break	Session 3	Session 4	Tutor	Lunch	Session 5	Session 6	Leave	
	08:45 09:35	09:35 10:45	10:45 11:00	11:00 12:00	12:00 13:00	13:00 13:30	13:30 14:05	14:05 15:05	15:05 16:00	16:00	
Y10 Y11 Post 16	Y10 Y11 P-16		Break			Tutor PSHE	Lunch				

Travelling to and from school by public transport

The Local Authority has received additional funding to help bus companies put on more services to support children returning to school. We are aware that some routes have been changed and additional buses scheduled.

This letter was received by Headteachers this afternoon

(https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2020/08/28/file_attachments/1528619/Arriva%20Head%20Teacher%20Letter%20-%20All%20scenarios.pdf)

This additional information on what is happening locally has also been provided

(https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2020/08/28/file_attachments/1528620/Milton%20Keynes%20September%202020%20School%20Buses.pdf)

This is the link to timetable information <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/help/coronavirus/school-timetable-information>

Parents are advised to check this information carefully to ensure their child(ren) gets on the correct bus(es) to arrive on time.

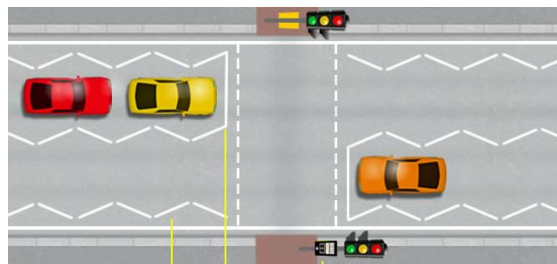
If we get any further information, we will forward this to parents.

Travelling to and from school by car

Parents are reminded that the law relating to the yellow zig-zag lines outside schools (shown below) indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. The Highway Code states that you should keep these areas clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children. This means vehicles are not allowed to stop, wait or park on these markings.



The approach to, and exit from, a pedestrian crossing is marked with white zigzag lines. These also mean that you must not wait or park on them or overtake the leading vehicle when approaching the crossing. Parking here would block the view for pedestrians and the approaching traffic thus putting people at risk.



Waiting or parking on either yellow or white zig-zag road markings is penalised by a fine **and** penalty points.

Parents who are selfish and inconsiderate enough to park on these road markings outside either campus will have their cars photographed as evidence of them committing an offence. The photographs may be sent to the police and/or council for enforcement action.

Parents are urged to wait for their children in one of the car parks that are within easy walking distance of both campuses rather than attempt to park on the road immediately outside the school.

Travelling to and from school by minibus

We are pleased that even with the reduced capacity on the minibuses, the staggered start has enabled us to accommodate all the students wishing to use this service.

Walking and cycling to school

Walking and cycling remains our preferred way for children to get to and from school. Not only is it good for their physical and mental health, it is also better for the environment.

Parents are strongly urged to ensure that if their child cycles to school they insist that they wear a helmet and have lights for dark afternoons. Regular safety checks, particularly brakes, are also important. All students

coming to school by bike must lock the bike to one of the cycle racks provided. Walton High takes no responsibility for the loss or damage of bikes.

Mobile Phones and other devices

We prefer that mobile technology is not brought into school **and take no responsibility for any loss or damage**. However, we recognise that most people can no longer live without their phone.

Although the school has an internet filtering service on its network and is able to monitor students' use of the internet when they are using the school's equipment, it is unable to check students' use of the internet if they have accessed it via their own devices using 4G. **Parents are reminded of their responsibilities for ensuring that the appropriate parental control settings are applied to their son's or daughter's devices to prevent any inappropriate use.**

To ensure devices do not interrupt learning, phones must be switched off (not on silent) in lessons but the applications and functions on the phone, e.g. calculator, camera, internet access, may be used with the teacher's permission. Phones and other mobile devices must not be used between lessons, on the stairs or in the corridors as in a crowded building students must look where they are going. Mobile devices may only be used in designated social spaces before and after school and at break or lunchtime. "I was only checking the time" and "It's my Mum on the phone" are not valid excuses for a phone being used outside the designated times and locations.

If a student has a device confiscated during a lesson the phone will not be returned to the student. Instead, parents will be required to collect the device on behalf of their child. Phone collection times will be between 16:00 and 16:30.

Whilst we recognise that this may be inconvenient for some, the student can prevent their parents being put out by ensuring they comply with the school's rules regarding the use of mobile devices.

PE

For the foreseeable future, all PE lessons will be held outside which means if it is raining students will get wet. Parents are advised to check the forecast and if it is likely to rain ensure their child packs a towel with their PE kit.

'Flu injections for Year 7 students

During the summer break the Government announced that they intended to extend the 'flu vaccine to children in Year 7 as well all primary school children. When we receive further information, we will write to parents of children in Year 7 with an update. However, if clinically your child is able to have the vaccine, we strongly urge that they do so as this will help to protect them and others in the school community from this very nasty disease that can also prove fatal.

Lost locker keys

Students who have lost their locker key should purchase a replacement via Wisepay.

How safe will schools be when all students return?

Whilst we fully understand that parents may be anxious about their children returning to school, and given the track record of the Government, not overly convinced by either the Prime Minister's or Secretary of State for Education's reassurances, we strongly believe that, with the extensive measures we have put in place, **Walton High is very safe.**

The number of positive cases in Milton Keynes continues to be low in comparison to some other areas of the country ([Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#)) but these things can change quickly and this is monitored by the school on a daily basis.

Not only do we have excellent measures in place to prevent anyone contracting the virus on site, if young people do become infected it is now well established that they are very unlikely to become seriously ill.

However, it is still extremely important that students observe social distancing and other measures in place in order to protect staff, their families and the wider community, as those they come into contact with could be more vulnerable if they catch the virus. We all have a responsibility to look after each other.

Unfortunately, some young people have not been taking the virus as seriously as they should and this might be due to the mixed messages they are receiving.

When students are out and about, for example in shops or on buses, they are being told, along with the rest of us, that they must keep 2m away from people who are not in their household and wear face coverings. However, the Government has realised (belatedly) that it is not possible for all children to return to school full time and for them to stay 2m or even 1m+ apart in classrooms. As a result, there is limited social distancing in classrooms.

Schools have therefore put in place other measures to manage risk as explained in updates sent last term (<https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/letters-to-parents>) and set out in the school's comprehensive risk assessment (<https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/images/COVID19-RiskAssessment-WaltonHigh.pdf>).

Below is a reminder of the main measures we have in place.

Parents, the first line of defence

The most effective way of ensuring that students and staff do not contract the virus is for them not to come into contact with an infected person. It is therefore vitally important that parents keep their children at home and have them tested even if they only have very mild symptoms of the virus (cough, temperature, loss of sense of taste/smell or an upset stomach). Also, they should have their child(ren) tested as many times as they think is necessary. The child should stay home until they know the results of the test. If the test is positive, the school should be informed as soon as possible and the student should stay at home for at least 10 days. Even if the test is negative, students should only attend school if they are feeling well.

It is equally important that families observe the 14-day self-isolation rule if someone in their household becomes infected or if a person has been in close contact with an infected person.

If only healthy people are on site, nobody will contract the virus at Walton High.

Restricted access and temperature checks

Everyone entering the school's sites will automatically have their temperature checked by thermal cameras. Anyone who triggers the alarm will have their temperature checked again and will only be allowed to enter the building if it is within the normal range.

To further reduce the risk of coming into contact with the virus, visitors will not be allowed on site. This includes parents. Parents wishing to contact the school should do so by email or phone.

If a student forgets something, a parent may bring this to school but they will be asked to leave it on a table outside Reception.

Contractors will complete non-urgent work outside the school day.

Hand and respiratory hygiene

Not everybody who is infected by the virus will have symptoms but it is still possible for these people to spread the virus.

Students and staff will therefore be required to wash their hands throughout the day and sinks have been installed across both campuses for this purpose. Hand sanitiser and tissues are also available in every room.

Maximum ventilation

Windows and doors to all areas will be open and, at the Brooklands Campus, the settings of the building's mechanical ventilation system has been set on maximum and adjusted to ensure there is no recycling of air.

Face coverings

The issue of face coverings has become a very divisive and contentious issue and therefore the school is between a rock and a hard place because, regardless of what we decide, we will either please or displease people.

The decision we have reached is that we will continue with the protocol that was shared with parents last term ([Annex 3](#)). This means that unless Government guidance changes, **the wearing of face coverings in school will continue to be optional.**

On arrival, students choosing to wear a face covering must also show the member of staff on duty that they have a plastic bag that can be sealed to store it in and a personal bottle of hand sanitiser so they can clean their hands after every time they touch their mask. 50ml bottles of hand sanitiser are available from Student Services and cost 50p each.

This very helpful video explains how to use properly a face covering
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/embed/p08g63wm/53381000>

Students not complying with the protocol are potentially putting others and themselves at risk and therefore may have permission to wear them revoked if, after further guidance, they continue not to use them properly.

In reaching this decision, we have taken into account the low incidence of COVID-19 in the community at this moment in time and the other measures the school has in place to prevent people coming into contact with the virus, e.g. the staggered timings of the day, seating arrangements in classrooms and the one way system in corridors and on stairs. We also believe that whilst it is tolerable to wear a face covering for a short period of time, it is difficult to wear one all day – especially for young people.

Respecting others

One of the main values Walton High promotes across the school community is respect for others and tolerance of differences.

It is clear that as the impact of the virus has developed, there is a risk that society will become polarised with the extremes being denial that the virus is a serious threat resulting in a blasé attitude towards social distancing and other restrictions to that of extreme fear of the virus and rigid adherence to all precautions and intolerance of those who do not do the same. Most people's views are probably somewhere between these two positions. The views of parents will have an impact on their children. This may manifest itself either in extreme anxiety about returning to school or a lack of willingness to comply with the health and safety measures in place. These differences in attitude can in turn cause tension and unnecessary upset.

To manage this situation it is important for everyone to understand and respect the views of others and the measures the school has put in place to keep staff, students and their families (as well as the wider community) safe. It is the responsibility of parents and staff to ensure that everyone complies with expectations.

Whilst Walton High will ensure social distancing and hygiene measures are observed in school, we are not able to supervise what young people do as they travel to or from school. Parents are therefore reminded that out of school, their children are their responsibility.

Social media

It is highly likely that as schools return, irresponsible people will use social media to spread fake news and rumours. If there should be any confirmed cases of the virus at the school, we will keep parents fully informed directly and ask that they ignore anything posted on social media.

Plan B

Whilst the Government may not have a Plan B, we can reassure parents that we have a range of ways of working that we can roll out should circumstances change as we move into autumn and winter.

And finally . . .

In January 2020 I was due to begin an unpaid sabbatical to fulfil an ambition to sail around the world starting and ending in the Caribbean. Unfortunately, not long before I was due to join the crew of the Yacht Apache, a hole was discovered in the hull. I was obviously very disappointed but relieved that this was discovered in a dry dock in Massachusetts rather than in the middle of the Pacific Ocean where the nearest people to us would, in all likelihood, have been on the Space Station! If the voyage had gone ahead, as a result of COVID-19, I would have had to endure the hardship of sitting out the pandemic on a paradise island in the South Pacific! Life, as we know, is full of disappointments, and we are often bowled curved balls, but I appreciate the unfortunate circumstances that affected me are nothing in comparison to the trials and tribulations experienced by many others. Indeed, COVID-19 has presented young people with many challenges but they do not have to become a victim of circumstances. With resilience, determination, hard work and support from those around them they can still achieve their ambitions in the same way that I may one day circumnavigate the globe.

Walton High's Senior Team is confident that, with the support of staff, parents and students, together we will all safely navigate the challenges ahead and secure a bright future for all our young people.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

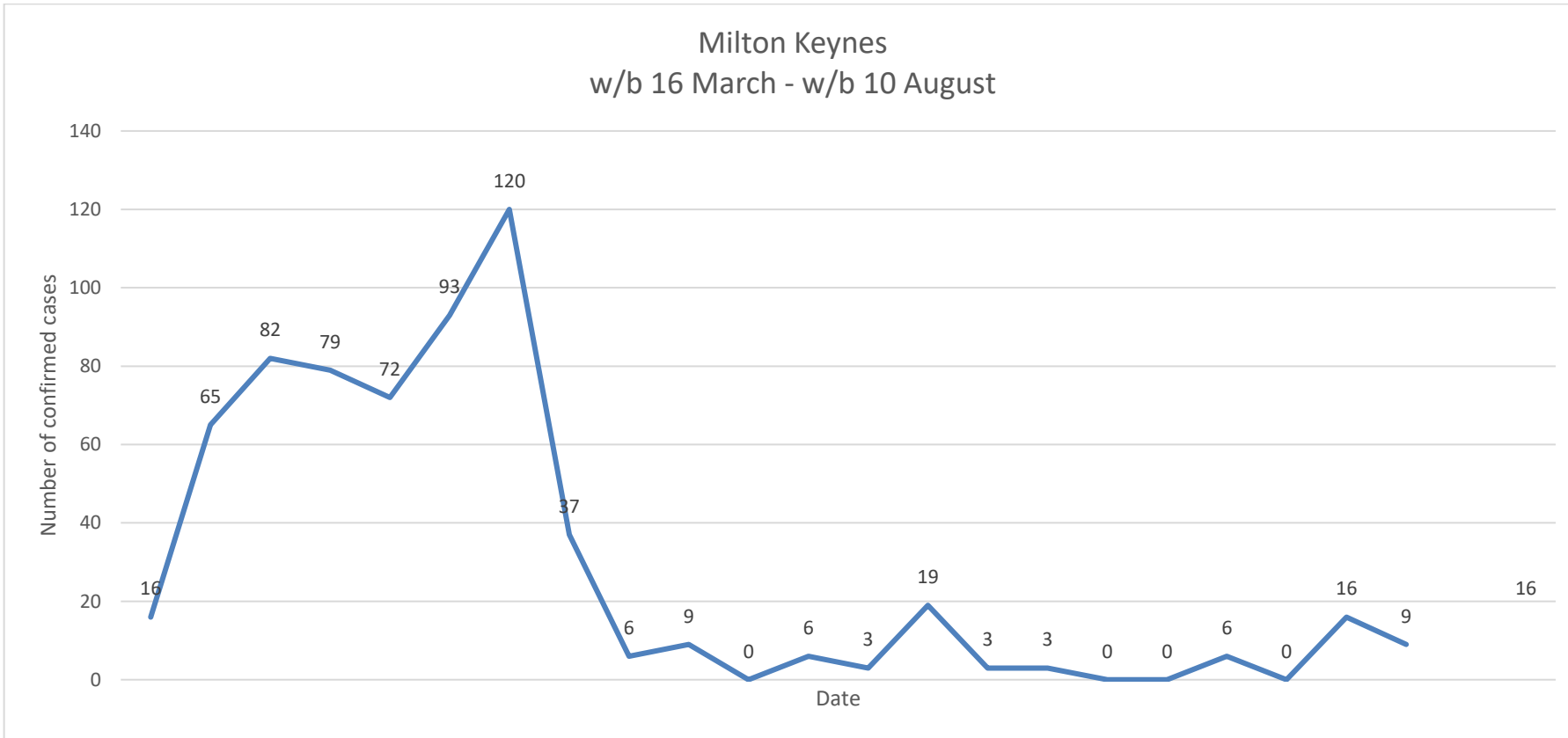
Annex 1

	wk 12 16/03	wk 13 23/03	wk 14 30/03	wk 15 06/04	wk 16 13/04	wk 17 20/04	wk 18 27/04	wk 19 04/05	wk 20 11/05	wk 21 18/05	wk 22 25/05	wk 23 01/06	wk 24 08/06	wk 25 15/06	wk 26 22/06	wk 27 29/06	wk 28 06/07	wk 29 13/07	wk 30 20/07	wk 31 27/07	wk 32 03/08	wk 33 10/08	Latest 7_days 17/08	
Olney & Lavendon	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hanslope, Castlethorpe & Sherington	5	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Newport Pagnell North	3	3	4	..	5	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Newport Pagnell South	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Linford & Giffard Park	4	..	5	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stantonbury & Bradville	5	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	..
Willen & Downhead Park	..	7	..	7	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wolverton & New Bradwell	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Linford Wood	..	3	4	3	5	3	10	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Stony Stratford & Old Wolverton	4	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bradwell Village	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stacey Bushes & Fullers Slade	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bradwell Common	3	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
Central Milton Keynes & Newlands	3	8	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Two Mile Ash	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Woughton & Woolstone	3	6	5	4	3	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Broughton, Middleton & Kents Hill	..	4	11	8	9	17	13	10	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	5
Eaglestone & Fishermead	4	3	7	9	5	4	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shenley Wood & Grange Farm	..	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
Loughton	8	..	4	4	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oldbrook & Coffee Hall	..	3	..	6	5	3	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Walnut Tree & Tilbrook	..	3	..	7	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denbigh	..	5	5	6	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bow Brickhill & Woburn Sands	..	5	..	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westcroft & Shenley Brook End	6	..	6	3	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
Furzton	4	3	..	5	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bletchley North West	..	6	6	4	6	6	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tattenhoe & Emerson Valley	..	3	..	..	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Far Bletchley	4	..	3	4	8
Bletchley East	5
Bletchley West	3	3	6	6
Bletchley South	3	5	..	3	3	..	3	3

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Company number 7663689. The Registered Office is at Walton High, Fyfield Barrow, Milton Keynes, MK7 7WH

Enabling - Enhancing - Enriching

Annex 2



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Enabling - Enhancing - Enriching

Annex 3



Walton High's Protocol for wearing a face covering

The Government states that evidence suggests wearing a face covering does not protect the person wearing the mask. However, if the wearer is infected but has not yet developed symptoms, it may provide some protection for those they come into close contact with.

Face coverings are only compulsory for students using the minibus service or public transport. Two face coverings will be needed, one for the journey to school and a second for the journey home.

Students may choose to wear face coverings at other times but this is not considered necessary.

Students and staff using a face covering must comply with the following protocol:

1. A face mask must cover the mouth and nose whilst allowing the wearer to breathe comfortably
2. Before putting the face covering on, the wearer must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser
3. People wearing a face covering should avoid touching the mask, their eyes, nose, or mouth at all times
4. Before removing the face covering, the wearer must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser
5. Single use face coverings must be disposed of in a plastic bag that is tied closed and disposed of in a bin - a nappy or dog poo bag is ideal for this purpose
6. Reusable face coverings should be washed between use and stored in a closable plastic bag until it has been washed - a zipped sandwich bag that can be cleaned between use is ideal for this purpose
7. Those using a reusable face coverings that has a filter, such as a paper towel, should dispose of the filter in the same manner as a single use mask
8. After removing the face covering, the wearer must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser

This very helpful short video explains how to use properly a face covering

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/embed/p08g63wm/53381000>