



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

Brooklands Campus: Fen Street Milton Keynes MK10 7HE

Tel: 01908 677954

[www.waltonhigh.org.uk](http://www.waltonhigh.org.uk)



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie  
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Renu Elston  
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

22 September 2020

## COVID-19 Update 21

Dear Parents

The good weather has helped us manage students' social time with most enjoying break and lunchtime outdoors with their friends, which has been great to see.

### Social Distancing

We would like to thank parents for reinforcing the message that maintaining an appropriate social distance is very important for everybody's wellbeing and is not just adults being unreasonable. Students who fail to keep their distance in school are reminded of why this is important and their parents contacted so they can follow this up with their child when they get home. If you do receive an email, I can assure you that regardless of what your child may say, they were failing, to a greater or lesser extent, to meet our social distancing expectations. "Other people were also doing it" is no justification. As I often explain to students, lots of motorists speed but not all are caught. Parents who have been contacted have generally been grateful to have been informed and have promised to reinforce the message again at home and we thank them for their support.

Whilst it is relatively easy to control the classroom environment, keeping students at least two metres from their teacher and limiting the contact they have with others with seating plans and "bubbles", this is more challenging outside of lessons where we need to rely on students' self-discipline and thoughtfulness.

It is more challenging for staff to ensure students keep at least a metre away from others with no face-to-face when, at times, over a thousand people are moving around the building. The more students fail to comply with expectations, the more staff have to expose themselves to greater risk to address these issues.

At the Walnut Tree campus, due to the width of the corridors, students must walk in a single file, whereas at the school's Brooklands campus they are to walk on either side of the corridor but in single file on the stairs. Students are now generally very good at doing this but, as you can see in the Brooklands photo below, the further they are from the teacher standing in the centre of the corridor, the more they tend to gravitate towards the middle and thereby reduce the social distance between themselves and others.

Walnut Tree



Brooklands




It is clear from the latest data ([Annex A](#)) that, as with the rest of the country, the number of people contracting the virus locally is increasing. Therefore, for everyone’s health, it is now even more important that students follow **all** the measures we have put in place to mitigate the risk of students and staff contracting or transmitting the virus in school. As students are aware of the importance of moving around the sites as instructed, we will now be less tolerant of those who disregard these expectations and fail to comply with these basic rules, which are very simple to follow.

**My child is unwell, should they have a COVID-19 test?**

Unfortunately, the symptoms of COVID-19 are not dissimilar to other illnesses that are common at this time of year.

The table below may help parents distinguish between the different diseases to determine whether their child needs a test. However, as COVID-19 is known to affect people differently, this is only a general guide.

Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
 Fever	Common	Common	Rare
 Cough	Common	Common	Mild
 Loss of taste and smell	Sudden	Rare	Sometimes
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny/stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Sneezing	No	No	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
 Diarrhoea	Sometimes for children	Sometimes, especially for children	No

Source: WHO, CDC BBC

The Local Authority has produced a guide which parents may also find useful.

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2020/09/18/file\\_attachments/1549502/MK%20Flowchart%20for%20parents%2018%20Sept%202020.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2020/09/18/file_attachments/1549502/MK%20Flowchart%20for%20parents%2018%20Sept%202020.pdf)

Even if you think your child has COVID-19 symptoms, due to the current level of demand and the woeful shortcomings of the country’s testing capacity, you might not be able to get a test for your child as the Government does not consider young people to be a priority. As a result, children with COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate for ten days from the start of their symptoms before returning to school unless

they have a negative test result before the end of this period. Others in the household should follow the advice on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>).

### **Year 7 'Flu vaccination nasal spray**

The Immunisation and Vaccination Team has advised that the 'flu vaccination nasal spray for Year 7 students will be administered on

**Brooklands Campus Tuesday, 13 October**

**Walnut Tree Campus Tuesday, 17 November**

Once Walton High has received the link to the e-consent form, we will forward this to parents of children in Year 7 via email.

The school's unique reference number may be needed to complete the form, which is 136842.

For the protection of the wider community, unless there is a medical reason for you child not to have this vaccination, all parents are encouraged to give their consent and support this major public health initiative.

### **Social media**

In Update 18 sent to parents on 28 August, I wrote:

*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.*

Despite this request, it has not taken long for one parent to post on a Facebook page that a teacher had tested positive and actually named a teacher. To spare any embarrassment, I will not name the parent who posted this fake news. I can reassure parents that it is categorically **not true** that any teacher at Walton High has tested positive for COVID-19.

When we have any confirmed cases, as we did for the member of support staff who tested positive the other week, we will notify parents as soon as possible and will put into place any measures Public Health England advise us to take. The only information parents should believe is that which comes directly from the school as we are committed to being totally transparent.

### **Face coverings**

As the Government's advice relating to students wearing face coverings in school has not changed, these continue to optional but the school's protocol for their safe use must be followed. This has been explained to all students and the level of compliance with the protocol is very high. It is also pleasing to see that students respect the choice their peers make as to whether to wear a mask or not.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child knows how to use their chosen type of face covering hygienically, that it fits properly and is washed or disposed of daily.

Students travelling on the school's minibus must wear a face covering and will have their place on the bus removed if they fail to do so.

Parents should remind their children that they must also follow the national regulations relating to the wearing of a face covering in certain places, e.g. shops and public transport. It is not the school's role to enforce regulations outside of school. I am sure parents are aware that the fine for failing to comply with this regulation is being increased from £100 to £200 and parents will be liable to pay this if one is issued to their child.

### **Staff absence**

It is not unusual for staff absence to be a little higher a couple of weeks into a new term but this year people are also concerned that they may have symptoms of COVID-19 and are therefore understandably wanting to be tested before returning to work. The difficulty in accessing a test, and the delay in results being returned, is resulting in colleagues being away from work longer than usual. Covering for colleagues is already putting significant pressure on staff, which may in turn lead to further absences. As a result, it may take longer than usual for staff to respond to queries or to follow up concerns. We therefore ask parents to be considerate of the pressure people are working under and only contact the school if absolutely necessary.

Many thanks for your support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Currie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular border.

Michelle Currie  
Executive Principal

# Annex 1

22 September 2020 at 4:09pm

## Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

Cases data are available for **nations**, **regions** and **local authorities**. ✕

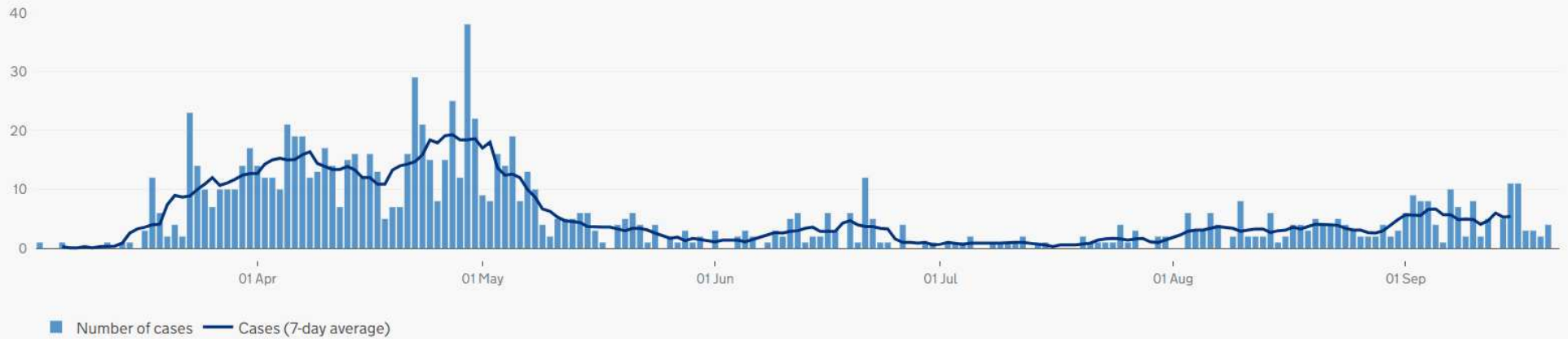
### People tested positive

Daily	Total
<u>5</u>	<u>1,089</u>

### Daily cases by specimen date ↓

Number of people with at least one lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test.

Daily Cumulative Data About



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## Public Health England Weekly COVID-19 Positive Cases up to 17 September

Week ending	22/3	29/3	05/4	12/4	19/4	26/4	3/5	10/5	17/5	24/5	31/5	7/6	16/6	21/6	28/6	5/7	12/7	19/7	26/7	2/8	9/8	16/8	23/8	30/8	6/9	13/9	Last 7 days	
Olney & Lavendon	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2
Hanslope, Castlethorpe & Sherington	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	5	3	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Newport Pagnell North	3	3	4	0-2	5	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4
Newport Pagnell South	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Great Linford & Giffard Park	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	5	5	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Stantonbury & Bradville	0-2	0-2	0-2	5	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	5
Willen & Downhead Park	0-2	7	0-2	7	3	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Wolverton & New Bradwell	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Linford Wood	0-2	3	4	3	5	3	10	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Stony Stratford & Old Wolverton	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	6	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Bradwell Village	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Stacey Bushes & Fullers Slade	0-2	3	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Bradwell Common	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	5	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	5	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Central Milton Keynes & Newlands	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	8	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2
Two Mile Ash	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	5	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Woughton & Woolstone	3	6	5	4	3	5	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Broughton, Middleton & Kents Hill	0-2	4	11	8	9	17	13	10	3	3	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	3	5	0-2	5	3	0-2
Eaglestone & Fishermead	4	3	7	9	5	4	4	8	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Shenley Wood & Grange Farm	0-2	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	6	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	5	0-2
Loughton	0-2	0-2	8	0-2	4	4	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	6
Oldbrook & Coffee Hall	0-2	3	0-2	6	5	3	3	3	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2
Walnut Tree & Tilbrook	0-2	3	0-2	7	0-2	6	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Denbigh	0-2	5	5	6	0-2	0-2	5	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2
Bow Brickhill & Woburn Sands	0-2	5	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Westcroft & Shenley Brook End	0-2	0-2	6	0-2	6	3	3	3	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	9	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	6
Furzton	0-2	0-2	4	3	0-2	5	6	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Bletchley North West	0-2	6	6	4	6	6	7	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2
Tattenhoe & Emerson Valley	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	4	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	7	0-2
Far Bletchley	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	3	4	8	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Bletchley East	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	5	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Bletchley West	3	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	6	6	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2
Bletchley South	3	5	0-2	3	3	0-2	3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	4	0-2	0-2

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