



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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www.waltonhigh.org.uk



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Ayser Asif
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

7 December 2020

COVID-19 Update 26

Dear Parents

2021 GCSE, A level, technical and vocational exams

Since the last Update, the Government has issued more details of the changes that will be applied to the 2021 exams. In summary, the DfE's press release stated:

In "recognition of the challenges faced by students this year", and on top of the three-week delay in exams, the government will:

1. Allow more generous grading – which will be "in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged".
2. Ensure all subjects "receive the same level of generosity so that the approach doesn't advantage some students over others depending on their subject choice".
3. Give students advance notice of some topics covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels to focus revision.
4. Allow exam aids, such as formula sheets, in "some exams" to give students "more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise".
5. Offer additional exams as a second chance for students to sit a paper if they miss the main exam because of illness or self-isolation.
6. In "extreme cases" where a student has a "legitimate reason to miss all their papers", allow a "validated teacher informed assessment" to be used (but only "once all chances to sit an exam have passed").
7. Set up a new expert group to look at "differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country" (but regional grading has been ruled out as unfair).
8. Ensure students taking vocational and technical qualifications see "some adaptations to ensure parity".

These concessions are welcome but as students in different regions, schools and even classes have not experienced the same level of disruption, it will still not be a level playing field.

Teachers have been analysing the gaps in learning as a result of lockdown and what action needs to be taken to address these and to build students' confidence. This analysis, together with the adjustments being made by exam boards means that teachers will be reviewing their planning for the rest of this year. This will ensure students are able to achieve their very best in the summer.

End of term arrangements

The autumn term was due to end at 12:00 on Friday, 18 December but to give teachers time to study and understand the implications of the changes to the 2021 exam series, it will now finish at the end of Thursday, 17 December. Teachers will work from home that day as the school will be closed to allow support staff time off in lieu for the additional hours they have been working to facilitate our extended staggered day. We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause and thank you for your understanding.

Charitable activities

This year students have again been collecting items for the local food bank. The response has been very positive and we would like to thank families for contributing so generously to help support less fortunate members of our community.

This Friday is Christmas Jumper Day. Students and staff are asked to contribute a minimum of £1 for the privilege of wearing their festive jumper. All money raised will go to Save the Children.

Cases locally

As the data in [Annex A](#) shows, the number of cases locally remains stubbornly high.

As we get closer to the holiday, we are very aware that contact with any positive case could impact on a family's festive plans. For this reason, we are reminding everyone to follow the "Hands, Face, Space" guidance and abide by the Tier Two rules [Local restriction tiers: what you need to know - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

Please remember to only send your child to school if they are well. If your child, or anybody in your household, starts to develop any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, please follow government advice to isolate and book a test. Please let us know the outcome of the test immediately via the covid19@mket.org.uk email address. The symptoms to look out for are on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> but in young people we have found that headaches, sore throats and/or an upset stomach are also common symptoms, especially in the early stages of the disease.

As a person is contagious up to 48 hours prior to COVID-19 symptoms becoming apparent, taking rapid action when your child (or anyone in your household) is feeling unwell helps limit the number of contacts they have which in turn reduces the number of students who have to stay at home to self-isolate. We want all of our staff and families to enjoy a well-earned holiday. By continuing to work together we can ensure that this happens.

Local developments

Cllr Hopkins has made the school aware that MK Council has published its draft Masterplan for SEMK (the land between Bow Brickhill, Woburn Sands, Wavendon, Old Farm Park, Wavendon Gate etc.) which has significant implications for Walton High and the local community [Annex B](#).

This is the first real indication of just how the Council sees the expansion into the local communities and, for those of you who live in the affected area, is worth studying in some detail.

<https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6777/Committee/1386/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

There will be a formal twelve-week consultation in the New Year. Cllr Hopkins has identified the following as some of the main issues:

- expansion of H10 Bletcham Way and its 80 metre corridor (eventually to the M1 at Junction 13) (As this is the road that runs past the bottom of Walton High's Walnut Tree playing fields, this raises concerns about increased air and noise pollution)
- location of local centres
- access to recreation facilities (playing fields etc.)
- possible relocation of Woburn Sands railway station
- bridge over the railway
- traffic passing through Woburn Sands
- Noise, dust etc. during build phase which will go on for many years – routes for contractors' vehicles

Cllr Hopkins has advised that questions and observations should be sent to the Leader of the Council, who is also the Cabinet Member for planning peter.marland@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

And finally . . .

One of Walton High's longest serving members of staff, Campbell Burn, will be retiring at the end of term. Campbell has been responsible for the smooth running of the school's internal and external exams for the past 16 years; a role he has performed to an exceptionally high standard. His calm efficiency and reassuring presence will be much missed. All at Walton High wish Campbell a long and happy retirement.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal



Annex A

6 December 2020 at 4:14pm

Cases in Milton Keynes

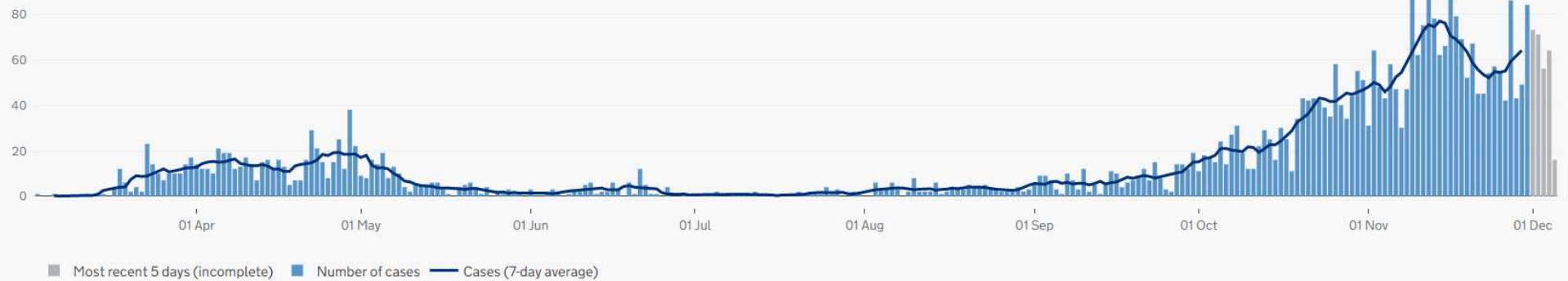
People tested positive

Daily	Total
91	4,218

Cases by specimen date

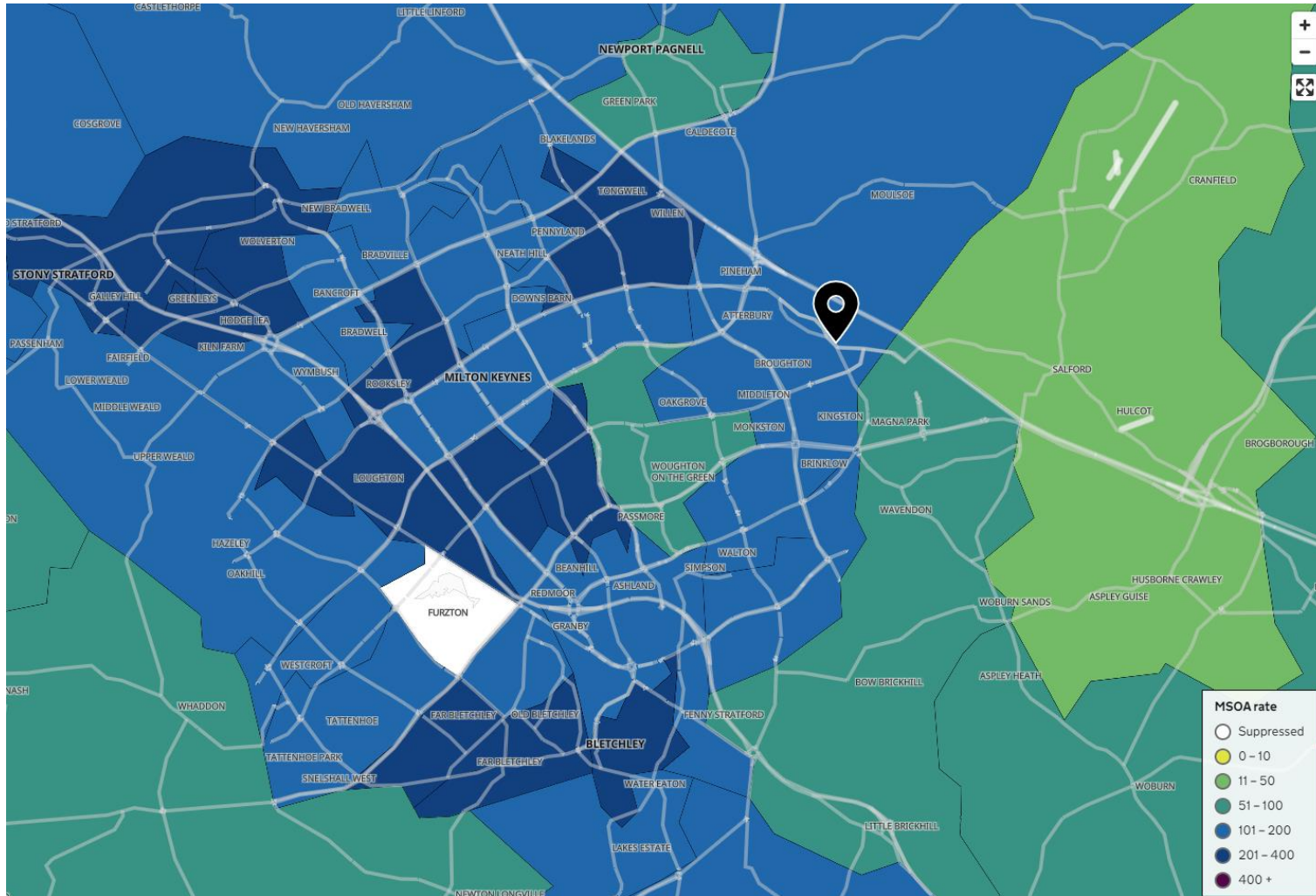
Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result (either lab-reported or lateral flow device), by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test. The most recent 5 days' data, highlighted in grey, are incomplete.

Daily Cumulative Data About



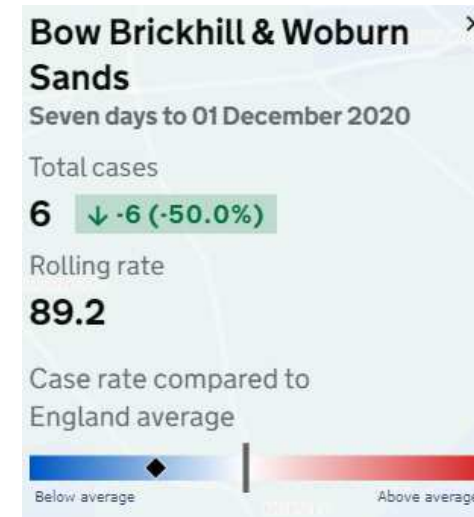
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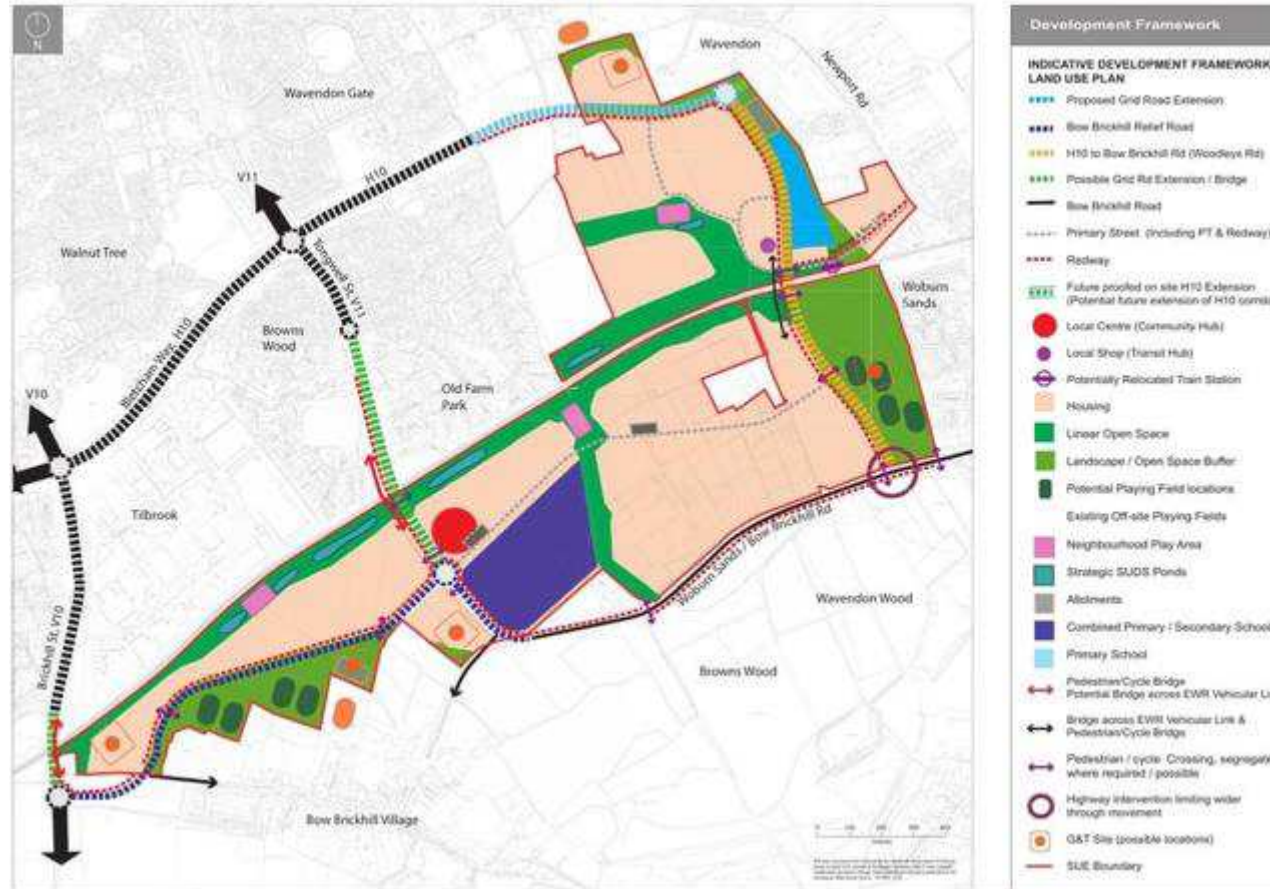


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Annex B



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