



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: Ayser Asif
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

15 December 2020

Dear Parents

Positive COVID-19 case

This afternoon we were made aware that a student in Year 8 at our Brooklands campus has tested positive for COVID-19.

Students who were sitting within two metres of the individual in lessons, or who were close contacts in the 48 hours before the student developed symptoms, will need to self-isolate.

The parents of these students have been contacted and will receive a letter today informing them that their child must stay at home and self-isolate for **10 days** from the date of their last contact with the individual. The exact date will be in the letter they receive. If you do not receive a letter, there is no need for your child to self-isolate.

Due to the measures we have put in place, no member of staff will need to self-isolate.

Some parents have asked why Walton High has only ever sent home a relatively small number of students for each positive case, whilst other secondary schools in Milton Keynes have sent home the entire year groups or have moved to online learning for the whole school. As mentioned in Update letters, the virus is impacting on schools in different ways and, depending on the measures they have in place, will respond according to their particular circumstances and context.

The reasons why we have not yet had to send home whole year groups is because:

- Walton High has not had a significant outbreak of connected cases. What we have experienced is a small number of spread-out, apparently unrelated cases (with one possible exception just before half term).
- Parents have been very responsible and kept their children home if unwell or if someone in the household has developed symptoms or tested positive. The excellent support we have received from parents has helped us limit the impact of the virus.
- Walton High staff have conducted themselves in a highly professional manner both in and out of work which has meant we have not had a significant number absent self-isolating at any one time.
- The strategy Walton High put in place in September was designed to reduce the number of students who would be considered to be close contacts in the event of a positive case. We did this by creating class bubbles not year bubbles and consistent seating plans.
- Walton High has a wide range of mitigation measures in place to help prevent the in-school transmission of the virus, e.g. frequent handwashing; one-way system; masks in crowded corridors and social spaces; use of virucidal cleaner after each lesson, staggered start, break and lunch.
- Students have by and large complied with the mitigations measures the school has in place.

It is clear from the significant increase in the number of positive cases in Milton Keynes in the past seven days (up 77%), that the virus is spreading rapidly in the community. We therefore appreciate the concerns parents have and the reasons why some have decided to keep their children at home this week to self-isolate before

meeting up with vulnerable relatives over Christmas. However, Walton High will remain open until the end of Thursday and most students should continue to attend as usual.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Currie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Michelle Currie
Executive Principal