



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



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Ayser Asif
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

19 January 2021

COVID-19 Update 31

Dear Parents

DfE and Ofqual consultation

The two bodies with overall responsibility for qualifications in England are holding a joint consultation on how grades should be awarded in the summer. The closing date for responses is 29 January 2021.

The link to the consultation paper setting out what is proposed also has the link to the online response form.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021?utm_source=18%20January%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Parents with children in Years 11 – 13, as well as students in these year groups, are encouraged to read what is being proposed and give their feedback.

Once the DfE and Ofqual finalise arrangements, we will inform students and parents of how we will implement the policy to ensure students achieve the grade that accurately reflects what they know, understand and can do in each subject they are studying.

In the meantime, it is **extremely important** that students continue to engage with their online lessons and complete all the learning activities set to the best of their ability. Teachers will be using this, together with other evidence, to award students fair grades.

Remote learning

Thank you for the positive feedback and constructive suggestions; these are much appreciated and help us to continually improve.

As part of their ongoing professional development, teachers are constantly exploring what works best and trying new ideas. They are also aware of the guidance recently published by Ofsted related to online learning <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>.

Teachers have been asked to produce a range of different types of lessons and to use the format that best meets the learning objective for that session. There is often a misconception that live lessons are best but, as the Ofsted paper makes clear, this is not necessarily the case.

Some students have raised a concern that their parents are trying to become too involved in their home learning and that this is making them feel anxious or causes confusion. With adolescents especially, it can sometimes be difficult to get the balance right between showing an interest and being supportive whilst not appearing to be interfering and overbearing. If confused, students may contact their teacher for help.

To protect the privacy of students taking part in live lessons, other members of a household should not listen into these sessions. In shared spaces headphones should be used. In the same way it would not be appropriate for people to listen into parents' work meetings or calls with customers, the same level of confidentiality should be afforded to students taking part in lessons.

Lateral Flow Tests

Walton High is implementing its routine weekly testing of students and staff working on site, as well as for some staff at MKET primary schools. So far, these tests have detected three positive cases in asymptomatic adults which were later confirmed by the more accurate PCR tests. This clearly shows the benefit of asymptomatic testing in schools as without them these people could potentially have gone on to infect others. Although the rate of infection in Milton Keynes ([Annex A](#)) continues to fall, it is still at a relatively high level so we must all continue to do our part in limiting transmission. Thank you to those parents and students over the age of 16 who have given consent for testing when schools eventually reopen.

Many parents may have read or heard reports about whether these lateral flow device tests have regulatory approval. Unfortunately, there has been some misleading reporting which needs to be addressed. The tests have been approved by the regulator as a test to detect cases of COVID-19. What has not been approved is the use of the tests for seven consecutive school days (known as serial testing) to remove the need for close contacts of a positive case to self-isolate.

Schools have received conflicting advice on what to do should someone in school be a close contact of a positive case. The DfE maintains schools do not need to ask the person to self-isolate if they agree to serial testing but the local public health team advises that schools should still require people to self-isolate for ten days. Given the lack of regulatory approval for the DfE's approach, Walton High will continue to require contacts of positive cases to self-isolate and will not therefore implement serial testing for now. We will keep parents informed should this change in the future.

If your child tests positive before returning to school, or has tested positive and you have not yet notified us, please let us know via covid19@mket.org.uk so we have an accurate picture of how the virus is affecting the school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal



Annex A

18 January 2021 at 4:43pm

Cases in [Milton Keynes](#) ▾

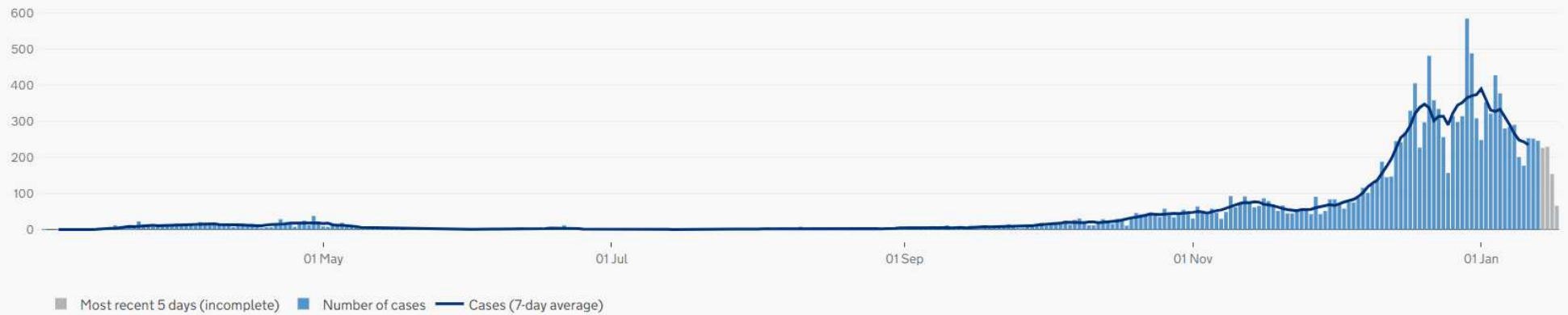
People tested positive

Daily	Total
265	15,661

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. Data for the period ending 5 days before the date when the website was last updated with data for the selected area, highlighted in grey, is incomplete.

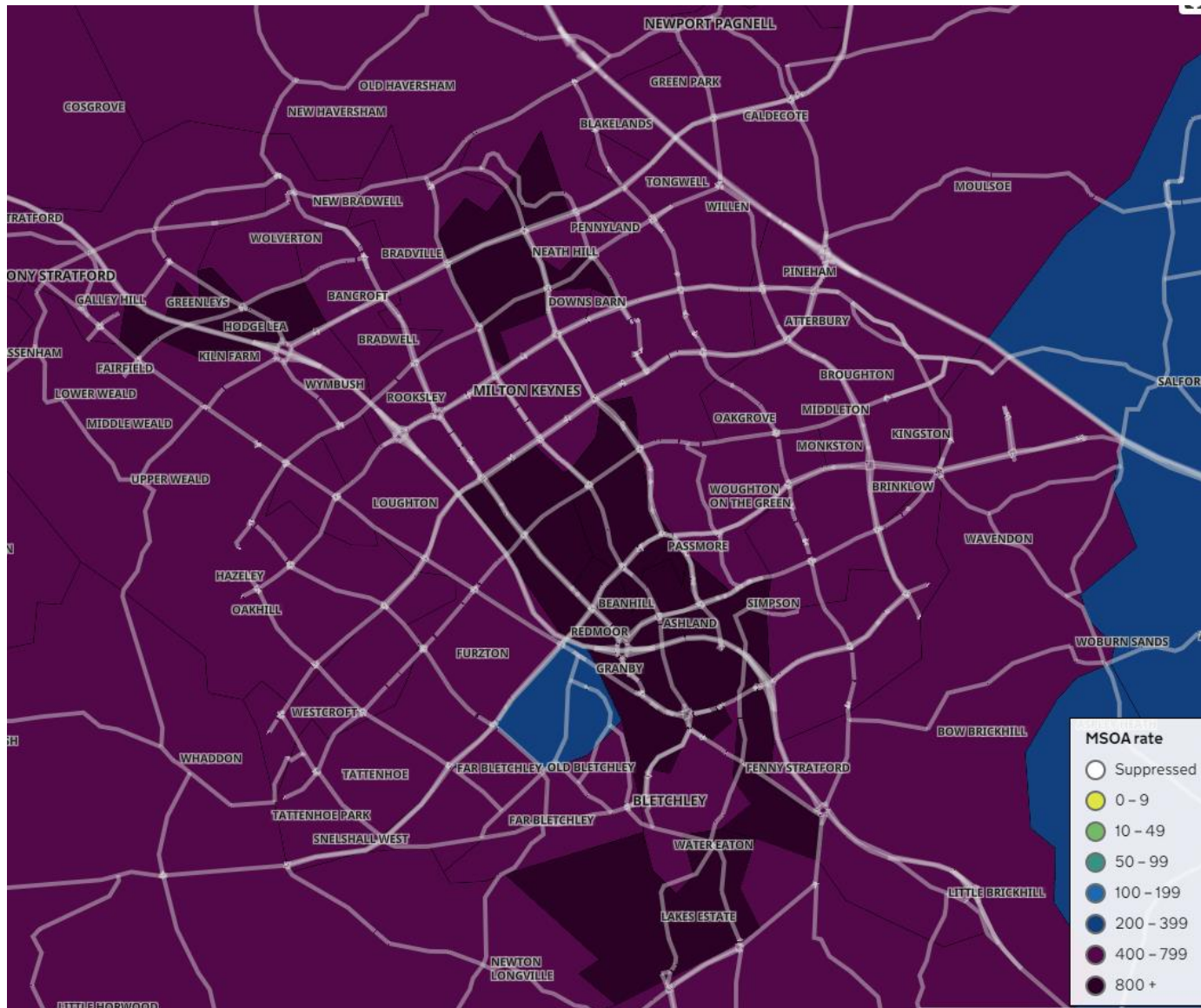
[Daily](#) [Cumulative](#) [Data](#) [About](#)



Walton High is operated by Milton Keynes Education Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.
Company number 7663689. The Registered Office is at Walton High, Fyfield Barrow, Milton Keynes, MK7 7WH

Enabling · Enhancing · Enriching

Seven-day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 13 January 2021



Walton High is operated by Milton Keynes Education Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.
Company number 7663689. The Registered Office is at Walton High, Fyfield Barrow, Milton Keynes, MK7 7WH

Enabling · Enhancing · Enriching

