



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
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9 April 2021

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update 37

Lateral flow tests

As is increasingly appreciate, the use of lateral flow tests is an important indicator of the number of infected people in the community as they help to identify infected people who are asymptomatic. It is estimated that over a third of all people with COVID-19 have no symptoms. These tests are an important strategy in the Government's roadmap back to a more normal way of life. In Update 36, we asked students and staff to carry on with the twice weekly testing regime over the holiday period and to use the online form to advise us of the result regardless of whether it was negative, void or positive. The data we receive from parents and students reporting the results of tests taken at home is used to inform Walton High's decision making. Unfortunately, over the holiday the school has only received test results for 17% of students. I should like to thank these parents and students for their continued commitment and support.

Campus	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total	%
Brooklands	30	30	19	18	11	2	1	111	11%
Walnut Tree	49	72	34	44	47	36	15	297	21%

The national figures also show a decline in the number of lateral flow test results being reported. When schools re-opened to all students, on average over one million tests were being conducted daily and this figure peaked at just over two million on the first Sunday of the holiday. Since then the figure has fallen to a rolling average of just over 560k despite the increased availability of the tests.

Even if your child has not carried out any tests so far this holiday, **it is extremely important that they do so this Sunday before returning to school on Monday, 12 April.** The result of this test should be reported to the school via the online form on the school's website <https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/information/lfd-test-results/> as well as to the NHS's Test & Trace service.

Parents are reminded that if anyone tests positive in their household **everyone must isolate**, as well as any identified close contacts, **even if they have no symptoms and have received a negative result from a lateral flow or PCR test.** Unfortunately, at the end of last term we had a number of students attend school despite a family member testing positive because they incorrectly thought they were allowed to do so because their own test was negative.

We continue to be grateful to the 95% of families that have opted into the testing programme and are doing their bit to help the country return to normal as soon as possible. The on-site testing provision will begin again next week for those students signed up for this service. If your child would prefer to do their test onsite rather than at home, they should let their Tutor know and they will arrange for them to be added to the list.

Face coverings

As reported in the media, schools have received the following communication from the Department for Education (DfE)

On Tuesday 6 April, the government confirmed that face coverings should continue to be worn in secondary school and college classrooms as a precautionary measure when students return after the Easter holiday.

In the guidance issued at the same time it states:

Subject to the roadmap process, as part of step 3, we expect these precautionary measures to no longer be recommended. This would be no earlier than 17 May and will be confirmed with one week's notice.

However, you may recall when the use of face coverings in classrooms were introduced, the DfE advised students and schools that they would not be needed after the Easter break. Hopefully, the vaccine will continue to have a positive impact on case numbers and this revised date will be honoured.

In the meantime, it is our expectation that students will, unless medically exempt, continue to wear their face coverings as required. Persistent failure to do so will result in those students having their lessons and social time away from their peers.

I should like to thank students and staff for their understanding and forbearance.

School day visits and residential trips

Students have missed nearly two years of Advanced Learning Days, visits and a range of other enrichment activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme expeditions. These activities are an important part of school life and students' rounded education.

The DfE has advised that educational day visits are allowed from 12 April. With regard to domestic residential visits it states: *Schools will not resume domestic residential educational visits until at least step 3, no earlier than 17 May.*

Before the Easter break, a staff survey indicated strong support for the reintroduction of educational visits in the summer term during the period 21 June to 2 July. As educational visits and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme expeditions involve a significant amount of planning and organisation, before we embark on this it would be helpful to know if this is something that would have parental support.

We should therefore be grateful if parents could complete the very short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F2VLYRL> which should take no longer than one minute to complete.

We look forward to your feedback on educational visits and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal



Annex A

8 April 2021 at 4:00pm

Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

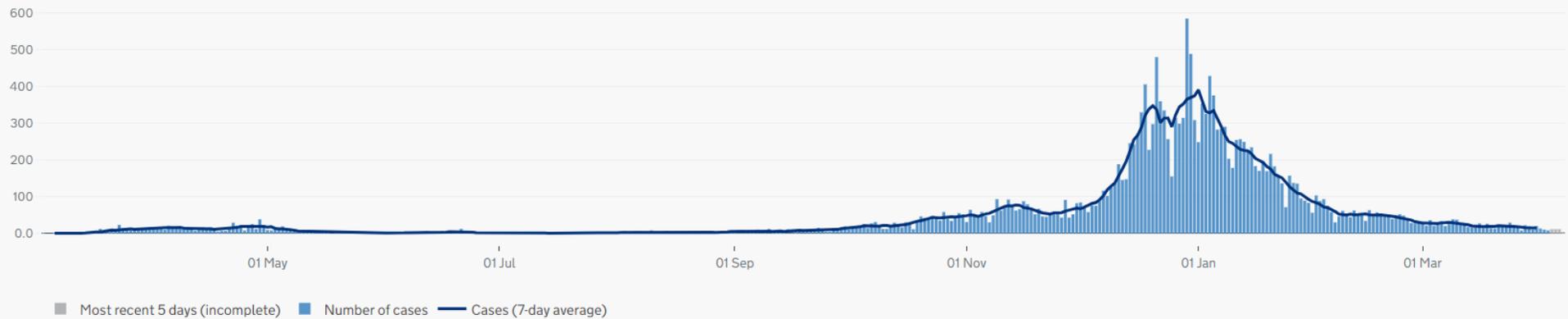
People tested positive

Daily	Total
13	19,920

Cases by specimen date

Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result, either lab-reported or lateral flow device (England only), by specimen date. People 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, are incomplete.

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



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Enabling · Enhancing · Enriching

Broughton, Middleton & Kents Hill

Seven days to 03 April 2021

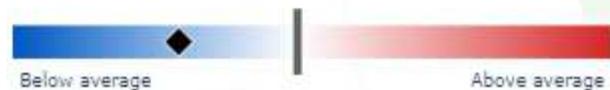
Total cases

10 → 0 (0.0%)

Rolling rate

44.0

Case rate compared to
England average



Walnut Tree & Tilbrook

Seven days to 03 April 2021

There were fewer than 3 cases. For smaller areas (eg MSOAs) with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show data. This is to protect individuals' identities.

Bow Brickhill & Woburn Sands

Seven days to 03 April 2021

There were fewer than 3 cases. For smaller areas (eg MSOAs) with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show data. This is to protect individuals' identities.

Cases

People tested positive in Milton Keynes

Latest data at **local authority (upper tier)** level provided on 8 April 2021

Daily

13

Last 7 days

78 ↓ -42 (-35%)

▶ Rate per 100k resident population: **38.2**

Deaths

Deaths within 28 days of positive test in Milton Keynes

Latest data at **local authority (upper tier)** level provided on 8 April 2021

Daily

0

Last 7 days

2 ↑ 2 (100%)

Healthcare

Patients admitted in Milton Keynes University Hospital

Latest data at **healthcare trust** level provided on 4 April 2021

Daily

0

Last 7 days

3 ↓ -2 (-40%)