



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



Principal – Brooklands Andrew Bennett
Principal – Walnut Tree Sharon Alexander

Executive Principal Michelle Currie

Chair of Governors Ayser Asif
Business Manager Sukh Singh

27 September 2021

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update 42

With reports of a significant outbreak of COVID-19 at a secondary school in Milton Keynes, it is timely to give an update on the situation at Walton High.

Up until Friday, Walton High had been notified of the following positive cases:

Year	Brooklands	Walnut Tree
7	3	8
8	6	2
9	4	2
10	2	1
11	7	2
12	1	0
13	0	4
Total	23	19

In addition to the students above, six members of staff have tested positive since the beginning of term.

The number of cases reported over a rolling 10-day period in a consistent group has not yet reached the threshold for stepping up mitigation measures, e.g. reintroducing face coverings, social distancing and/or bubbles. However, we have new cases reported every day. The most was on Friday when there were nine cases across both campuses (five at Walnut Tree and four at Brooklands).

Whether to introduce additional measures is kept under constant review but it is not considered necessary at the time of writing. However, students may choose to wear a face covering some or all of the time whilst in school and disposable ones are available free of charge from Student Services.

Importance of testing

Most of the cases have been detected using the LFD tests, with the vast majority returning a positive confirmatory PCR test. This highlights the importance of students, families and staff continuing to carry out asymptomatic testing twice a week. We would like to thank those families that are supporting the school by testing regularly and encourage those who are not taking part to reconsider this decision. Regular testing will help prevent an outbreak and avoid the need for the school to step up mitigation measures.

Please remember to notify the school of the results of tests taken, even if they are negative. This will help us to monitor engagement in the testing programme and informs the school's assessment of risk. More testing equates to less risk of an outbreak as cases are detected early and isolated.

What to do if your child has any of the common COVID-19 symptoms experienced by children

Do not send your child to school if they have **any** of the following symptoms: headache, sore throat, cough, temperature, upset stomach, loss of sense of smell and/or taste. These are the symptoms that students who have tested positive have reported. In line with the latest guidance, please book a PCR test; the results of which are usually returned within 24 hours. If the test is negative, and your child is well enough, they can return to school.

Actions to take if a student tests positive for COVID-19 at home

If your child has a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test taken at home:

- they should self-isolate straightaway and report their test result to the Government [website](#) and to Walton High via the online [form](#).
- they should book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible, either [online](#), through the NHS COVID-19 app, or by calling 119 and continue to self-isolate whilst awaiting results of the PCR test
- any unvaccinated adults in their household should self-isolate whilst awaiting their PCR result, unless they are [exempt](#)

Enclosed with this letter is a helpful flow chart for parents produced by the local Public Health team.

Track and Trace

Schools no longer have a role in track and trace and therefore we will not notify a parent if their child is a close contact of a positive case. This is now the NHS's responsibility. It is likely that this system will identify and contact fewer people than schools performing this role. If your child knows they have been close to a person who tested positive, as a precaution, a PCR test should be taken in addition to the usual twice weekly lateral flow tests. Students may continue to come to school unless the result of the test is positive.

Vaccinations

Take up of vaccine amongst staff has been excellent although, due to the age profile, a significant number have only had one dose.

Virtually all students are now eligible for the vaccine. Students 16 years old and over are able to book directly with the [NHS](#) whilst the parents of students aged 12-16 have been offered the opportunity to have their child(ren) vaccinated at school.

Last week, students at our Brooklands campus were the first in Milton Keynes to be offered the vaccine. Unfortunately, the day did not go as smoothly as we would have liked due the NHS sending the delivery driver to the wrong depot to collect the vaccine! This meant although everything was in place for a 09:00 start, the vaccine did not arrive until 11:00. Those students who missed out will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine at a later date. We hope the vaccine arrives on time for this week's session at the Walnut Tree campus.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

Annex A

Positive cases reporting in Milton Keynes on 26 September 2021

Cases in Milton Keynes

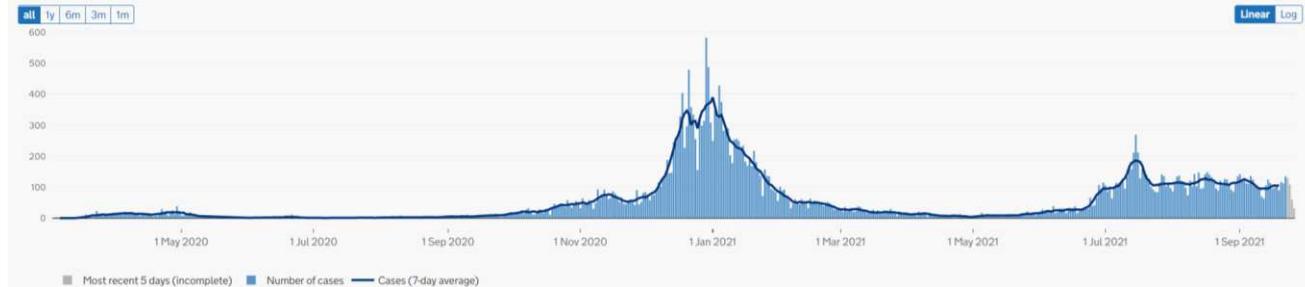
People tested positive

Daily Total
115 31,721

Cases by specimen date

Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result, either lab-reported or rapid lateral flow test (England only), by specimen date. Positive rapid lateral flow test results can be confirmed with PCR tests taken within 72 hours. If the PCR test results are negative, these are not reported as cases. 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



Case rate per 100,000 people for the 7-day period ending on 22 September 2021

