



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

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Dear Parents

Possible Covid-19 outbreak

The number of Year 9 students testing positive for Covid-19 over the past 10 days in one of classes at our Walnut Tree campus has reached the threshold that indicates there might be an outbreak in those groups. If your child has been identified as someone who is likely to have had contact with these children, you will have received a separate letter advising you of this and what action you should take.

We are monitoring the situation closely and working with our local Public Health team to put temporary additional measures in place to help reduce the risk of onward transmission within Walton High. The measures include students in the affected groups taking a PCR test and the suspension of Year 9 assemblies at the Walnut Tree campus until half term. We do not believe it is currently necessary to mandate the wearing of face coverings but students and staff may choose to do so. The effectiveness of all mitigation measures is kept under constant review and subject to change at short notice.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive

Typical symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known.

- If the PCR test is negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to the setting
- If the PCR test is positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

Please note that we have seen that additional symptoms of an upset stomach, runny nose, headache, sore throat or unusual fatigue (tiredness) could be early warning signs of a potential COVID-19 infection. **We advise that children with these symptoms should be kept at home**, and a PCR test booked if any of the typical COVID-19 symptoms appear. If further symptoms don't arise then the child can return to the setting when they are well.

If your child does develop COVID-19 symptoms, you can seek advice from the NHS at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are

concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you should contact NHS 111 at

<https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 17 and 9 months and over can [book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now. Those who are 16 or 17 years old can get vaccinated at a drop-in site. See <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in> for clinic locations and times.
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). Log your results with the school <https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/information/lfid-test-results/> and the NHS <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results> wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places

Twice weekly testing

Since the beginning of term, we have noticed a significant decline in the number of students reporting their LFD test results via the school's online form <https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/information/lfid-test-results/>.

For the w/c 27 September, of the 1,829 students who should be testing at home, only 399 students report one or more result. This equates to just 22% of students. As the onsite asymptomatic testing continues to detect positive cases, there is real concern that if the students who test at home do not play their part, there is a real risk of these students inadvertently spreading the virus in school. In this scenario, it is only a matter of time before there is an outbreak at Walton High similar to those experienced by other secondary schools in Milton Keynes.

Should such a high proportion of students continue to not engage in home testing, we will need to review our risk assessment. This might result in the need to reintroduce face coverings in communal areas and possibly even classrooms. Families are therefore urged to re-establish weekly Wednesday and Sunday asymptomatic home testing if they have not opted into the onsite testing programme. Test kits are available from Student Services if needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal