



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



Principal – Brooklands Andrew Bennett
Principal – Walnut Tree Sharon Alexander

Executive Principal Michelle Currie

Chair of Governors Ayser Asif
Business Manager Sukh Singh

4 November 2021

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update 44

Introduction of additional COVID-19 mitigation measures

Due to the very high number of cases amongst young people across Milton Keynes before the half term break, the Director of Public Health for the area has advised secondary schools to bring in additional mitigation measures until the end of term when they will be reviewed.

Therefore, from Monday, 8 November the following will apply:

- Only essential visitors will be allowed into the building. Those that are admitted will be required to wear face coverings. Meetings with parents will be held via MS Teams or over the phone where this is not possible.
- All staff will wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for known medical reasons.
- Students will wear face coverings in indoor communal areas outside the classroom and on both school and public transport **unless the school has received medical evidence that they are exempt**. Disposable face coverings are available free of charge from Student Services, but students are encouraged to have a supply of reusable ones for environmental reasons.
- Students and staff who are household contacts of a positive case and are exempt from isolation (because they are under 18 or are fully vaccinated) will need to take daily lateral flow tests for 7 days, the results of which **must** be reported to the school using the online form <https://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/information/lfd-test-results/> . Students may only attend school if the test result reported is negative.

Lateral flow tests should be taken from the date of the first COVID symptoms in the household, or from the date of the first positive test if there were no symptoms. In addition, all household contacts should follow national guidance and book a PCR test.

People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days do not need to participate in daily LFD testing or be re-tested with PCR.

All students should have sufficient tests at home, but if this is not the case, they may collect a kit from Student Services. The next routine distribution of LFD tests is scheduled for w/b 15 November. Families may also collect kits free of charge from pharmacies or have them posted to their home address by ordering them from the government's website <https://bit.ly/collectLFDtest>.

- Assemblies will not take place and all PE lessons will be held outside.
- Students taking part in indoor extra-curricular activities will be encouraged to keep their distance from students who are in different classes.
- Students will need to sit in their zones in the café at break and lunchtime.

Walton High is operated by Milton Keynes Education Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.
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Enabling · Enhancing · Enriching

- Staff meetings will be held in a socially distanced way or virtually
- The school’s risk assessment will be updated to reflect the heightened risk as we enter the winter months and the additional measures we have put in place.

Throughout the pandemic, students across all year groups and both campuses have responded positively to the mitigation measure in place and complied without a fuss. We expect this to continue to be the case. However, failing to comply with the health and safety measures in place will be considered to be a serious breach of the school’s Code of Conduct and will be followed up appropriately.

Positive cases

Since the beginning of term, Walton High had been notified of the following positive cases:

Cases up to 3 November

| Year | Brooklands | Walnut Tree |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 7 | 25 | 24 |
| 8 | 9 | 16 |
| 9 | 10 | 23 |
| 10 | 4 | 18 |
| 11 | 9 | 21 |
| 12 | 6 | 13 |
| 13 | 0 | 13 |
| Total | 63 | 128 |

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

Vaccinations

It is clear that nationally the vaccination programme is having a positive impact on reducing the number of people who are becoming seriously ill and dying. However, in her letter to school leaders, the local Director of Public Health states “ . . . rates of infection among school-aged children and young people increased to very high levels before half-term and I am aware how much educational disruption this was causing. We have now started to see a rise in infections among older people in the community and a rise in admissions for COVID-19 in local hospitals.” She goes on to emphasise the importance of young people being vaccinated to help prevent disruption to their learning and community transmission.

Virtually all students are now eligible for the vaccine; those 12 years old and over who missed the opportunity to have the vaccine at school are able to book directly with the [NHS](#).

Post-16 Information Evening

Whether we need to postpone the Post-16 information evenings scheduled for 24 November (Brooklands campus) and 25 November (Walnut Tree campus) until the Spring Term is currently under consideration. A final decision will be made nearer the time which will be informed by the number of reported cases and advice from the local Public Health team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

Annex A

Positive cases reporting in Milton Keynes on 3 November 2021

Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

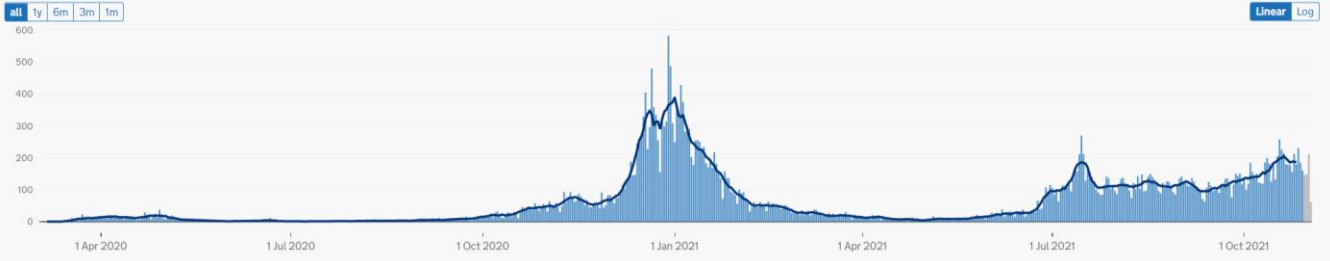
People tested positive

Daily Total
196 37,859

Cases by specimen date

Number of cases (people who have had at least one positive COVID-19 test result), by specimen date. 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 29 October 2021

