



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

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Principal – Brooklands Andrew Bennett
Principal – Walnut Tree Sharon Alexander

Executive Principal Michelle Currie

Chair of Governors Ayser Asif
Business Manager Sukh Singh

15 December 2021

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update 47

Positive cases

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

Cases up to 14 December

Year	Brooklands	Walnut Tree
7	54	38
8	25	33
9	21	30
10	22	28
11	18	36
12	8	17
13	1	17
Total	149	199

In addition to the students above, **twenty-one** members of staff have tested positive since the beginning of term. All bar one were double vaccinated.

We have been tracking whether there is a relationship between vaccination status and a student testing positive. Although the data set is small, it does appear to indicate that students who have received at least one dose of the vaccine are less likely to become infected than unvaccinated students.

- Vaccinated: 30.2%
- Unvaccinated: 69.8%

The data also shows that the vaccine does not give total protection.

The seven-day average for positive cases in Milton Keynes continues to rise. The current positive case rate in Milton Keynes (795.5 per 100,000 people) is significantly higher than the national rate (514.7 per 100,000 people) with cases in the areas served by the school being particularly high ([Annex A](#)).

It is likely that the lower than the national average take up of the vaccine in Milton Keynes ([Annex B](#)) is resulting in the higher than average number of cases.

Spring term vaccination programme

Yesterday, the Department for Education (DfE) informed us that, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose.

The message read:

NHS England has confirmed that, as with first doses, healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school next term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel.

Vaccination for this group will continue to be deployed primarily by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). In school vaccination will begin from Monday 10 January and all schools should have received at least one visit before February half-term. We expect most schools to require multiple visits so vaccines can be administered to all consenting pupils. SAIS teams will be in touch with schools from the start of next term to discuss what is best for their circumstances.

More information for schools on the vaccination programme and how second dose delivery will work, including information on consent gathering, will be published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shortly.

Vaccinating young people is increasingly important for keeping them, their friends, family members and teachers safe as we approach the Christmas holidays.

Over the Christmas holidays, parents can already book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#). Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20 December.

Further information on [vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds](#) is available on the NHS website.

As yet, we have no other information but, as always, will keep parents fully informed when we know more.

Beginning of term arrangements and on-site asymptomatic testing during the first week of term

On the evening of 3 January, all students should take an LFD test at home and only return to school on 4 January if they have tested negative and are feeling well. Students who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days should still take the test as evidence indicates that people who have had the Delta variant may go on to catch the Omicron variant. The result of the test must be reported to both the [NHS](#) and the [school](#).

It is Week A when we return. Students should arrive in good time for their first lesson and remember to bring their clean kit if they have PE that day.

In keeping with the current guidance, on 4 and 6 January, students will take an onsite LFD test. After the first week, students should continue their regime of twice weekly home testing on Sundays and Wednesdays unless they have opted into the onsite testing programme.

Daily testing for close contacts of a positive case

On 14 December, the DfE updated their guidance to schools on close contacts.

Students identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should now take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and, unless they have a positive test result, continue to attend school as normal. Parents are advised to always have a supply of LFD tests available for this eventuality. All test results should be reported to the [NHS](#) and the [school](#) via the online forms.

Students who refuse to take a daily test for seven consecutive days will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

Face coverings

When students return in January, we will follow the face covering guidance that is in place at the time.

The supply of face coverings we received from the government earlier in the year has now been exhausted, therefore students **must** remember to bring their own. Students who forget their masks will be able to purchase disposable masks from Student Services but, out of consideration for the environment, everyone is encouraged to have a supply of reusable face coverings.

Vacancies

As with many employers locally and nationally, Walton High has a number of unfilled vacancies that might be of interest to parents or their friends and relatives. These include:

- Learning Support Assistant
- Behaviour Support Assistant
- Medical room supervisor
- Attendance Administrator
- Apprentice Administrator
- Caretaker/Minibus Drivers
- Minibus Drivers

Further details of these posts can be found on our [website](#).

Due to the continued growth of Walton High and the expansion of our curriculum offer, we will also be advertising for additional teachers in January for a September 2022 start.

Thank you

I should like to put on record my enormous gratitude to Walton High's staff for the extraordinary lengths they have gone to in ensuring students' learning is disrupted as little as possible. Colleagues in all roles have seen an increase in their workload because of COVID-19 and have risen to the many challenges with professionalism and dedication. I could not work with a finer team of people.

I should also like to thank parents for their understanding of the challenges the school has faced and the many messages of appreciation that have been received.

And finally . . .

After 16 years' outstanding service to Walton High and the wider community, our Pastoral Director, Ann Purser, is retiring at the end of term. In her time at Walton High, Annie has helped and supported countless young people and families through challenging times and has worked to keep our students safe. Without a doubt, her work has made a positive difference to many people's lives and we will miss both her wit and wisdom.

I am sure parents and students will join staff, governors and trustees in wishing Annie a long and happy retirement.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable holiday and a happy and healthy 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

Annex A

Positive cases reporting in Milton Keynes on 14 December 2021 (<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>)

Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

People tested positive

Daily	Total
514	46,938

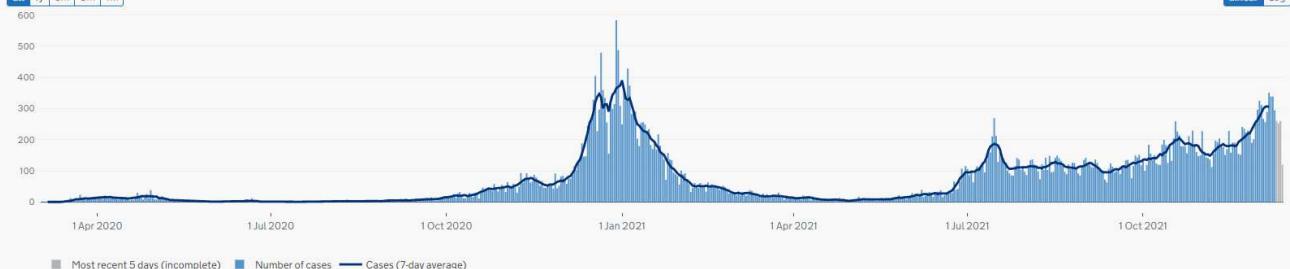
Cases by specimen date

Number of cases (people who have had at least one positive COVID-19 test result), by specimen date. Data for the last 5 days, highlighted in grey, are incomplete.

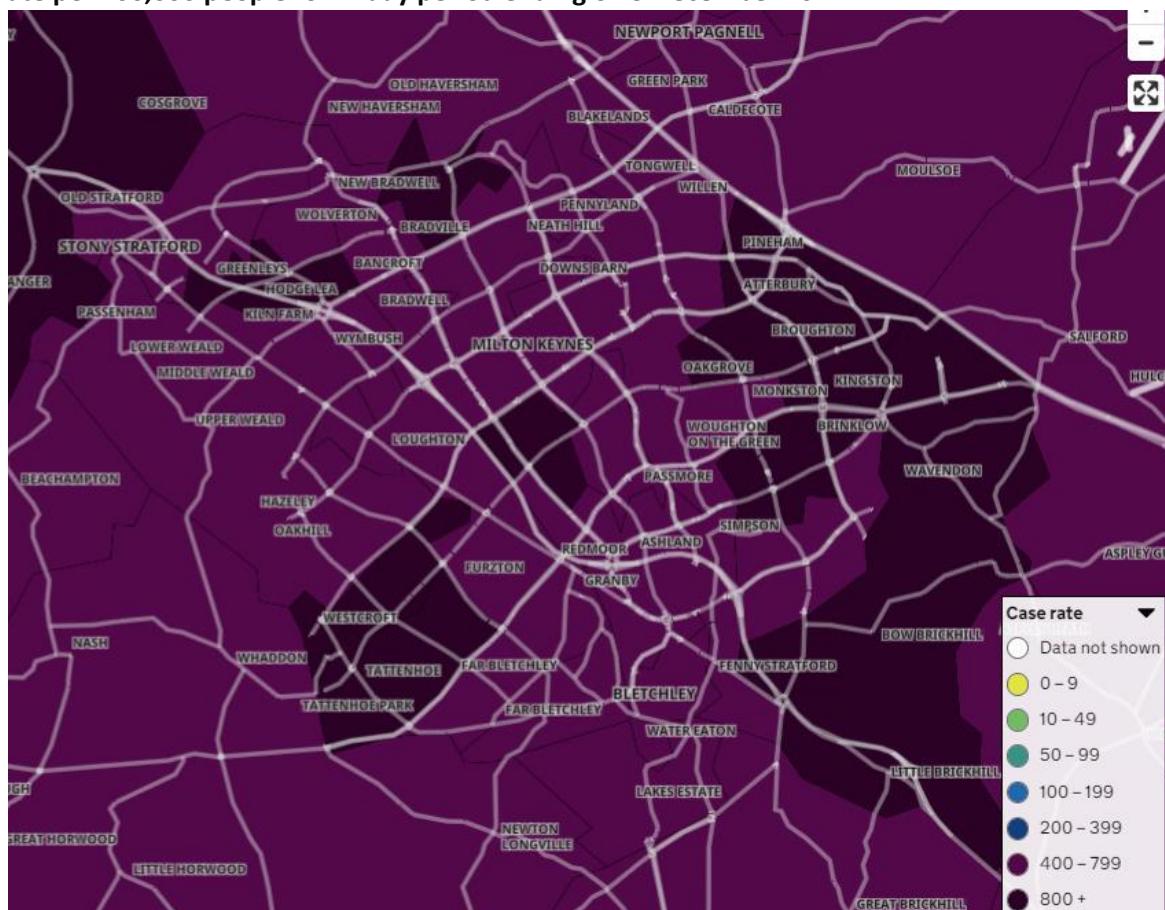
[Daily](#) [Cumulative](#) [Data](#) [About](#)

[all](#) [1y](#) [6m](#) [3m](#) [1m](#)

[Linear](#) [Log](#)

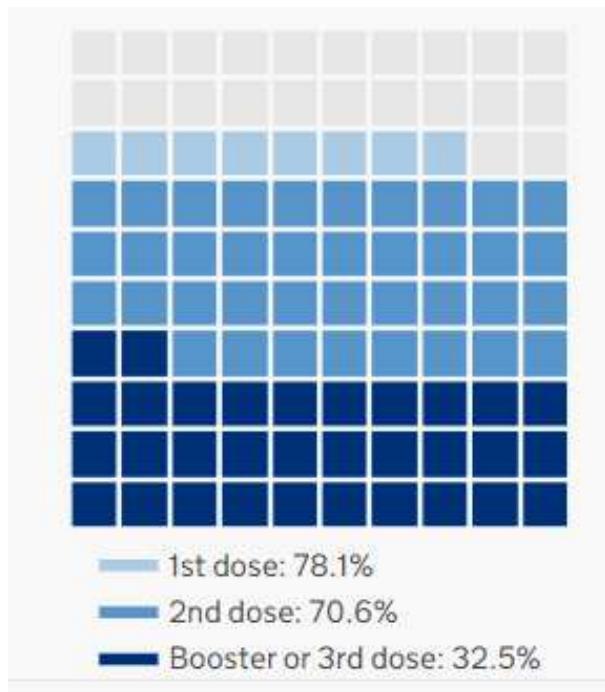


Case rate per 100,000 people for 7–day period ending on 9 December 2021



Annex B – Vaccination rates as of 14 December 2021

Milton Keynes



National

