



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

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[www.waltonhigh.org.uk](http://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

17 December 2021

Dear Parents

## COVID-19 Update 48

Due to the worrying rise in COVID-19 cases, especially in Milton Keynes which now has one of the highest rates in the country, and the increasing speculation that schools will not re-open as planned on 4 January, I wanted to reassure parents that Walton High has a robust contingency plan in place to enable students to continue their studies at home in the event that schools are again closed to all but vulnerable children.

### Distance Learning

As was the case during the previous closures, there will be a combination of live and recorded lessons and, in most cases, work will be set via Firefly.

### Digital Divide

Whilst most students have access to both an appropriate device and the internet, we are aware that this is not universal.

Parents who are concerned about their child's ability to continue their learning at home due to a lack of access to an appropriate device (laptop, PC or tablet) or the internet should complete the online form to request support [https://bit.ly/WH\\_IT\\_2022](https://bit.ly/WH_IT_2022). Parents who are unable to complete the online form should call the school and an administrator will complete the form for them over the phone.

Our aim would be to ensure every student has the access they need to continue their studies within seven working days. As a temporary measure, some students may be required to attend school until their home IT is in place.

### Office 365

To complete the activities set, students may need to use Microsoft Office Applications and, if they have not already downloaded these, they are available free of charge through the school. The products are licensed via a student's email address and is revoked when they leave the school.

Microsoft's instructions on how to install Office on a PC or Mac:

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/download-and-install-or-reinstall-office-365-or-office-2019-on-a-pc-or-mac-4414eaaf-0478-48be-9c42-23adc4716658>

Instructions for iOS devices:

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Install-and-set-up-Office-on-an-iPhone-or-iPad-9df6d10c-7281-4671-8666-6ca8e339b628>

Instructions for Android:

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Install-and-set-up-Office-on-an-Android-cafe9d6f-8b0c-4b03-b20a-12438a82a22d>

In addition to tasks set via Firefly, teachers will also make use of a range of other online learning resources to support students' learning, such as GCSE Pod; Kerboodle; My Maths; MathsWatch; PixL Apps; Dynamic

Learning. These resources are already available to support learning across the curriculum in Year 7 to Year 11.

Students will be able to use their school email accounts to contact teachers for additional support, in the event that their teacher is unavailable, another teacher will answer their query.

### **Support for students**

Below is an overview of the range of support we will be providing for students should the school be closed.

**Teachers** have created engaging online lessons and will provide support via Microsoft Teams or Firefly, as well as responding to emails.

**Subject Leaders** will provide advice and support for teachers in their teams and monitor the quality of lessons and students' work.

**Personal Tutors** will use their weekly Tutor Tracking and Tutor sessions to monitor students' engagement with the lessons set. They will contact students to providing advice and support. If a Tutor is concerned about a student falling behind, they will contact parents to discuss and look to work with families to remove any barriers to ensure no student misses out.

**Heads of Year** will set a daily challenge for students as well as supporting tutors in their work.

**Learning Support** staff will be in regular contact with students on the SEND register; ensure appropriate differentiation is in place; respond to requests for assistance from students and alerting subject staff to subject specific queries.

**Pastoral Support** will be in regular contact with vulnerable students; responding to requests for support; signposting external support; monitoring our safeguard portal, MyConcern, and responding as needed.

The **Vice Principal** responsible for student wellbeing, Mrs Levesley, will remind all students how to keep safe whilst away from school and what to do should they have any concerns.

**All staff**, on a rota basis, will supervise vulnerable students who are in school completing the online lessons set by their teachers.

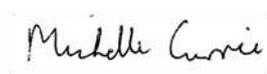
### **GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams**

The expectation remains that this year's exams will take place with the modifications already announced. Even without the current concerns, some students become anxious about their exams. If you have a child in Year 11 or Year 13 and think they would benefit from additional support because of anxiety, please contact their Head of Year to discuss your concerns.

Whilst we hope the above will not be necessary, it's right for us to be prepared for all eventualities.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie  
Executive Principal



# Annex A

## Positive cases reporting in Milton Keynes on 16 December 2021 (<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>)

### Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

#### People tested positive

Daily Total  
429 47,728

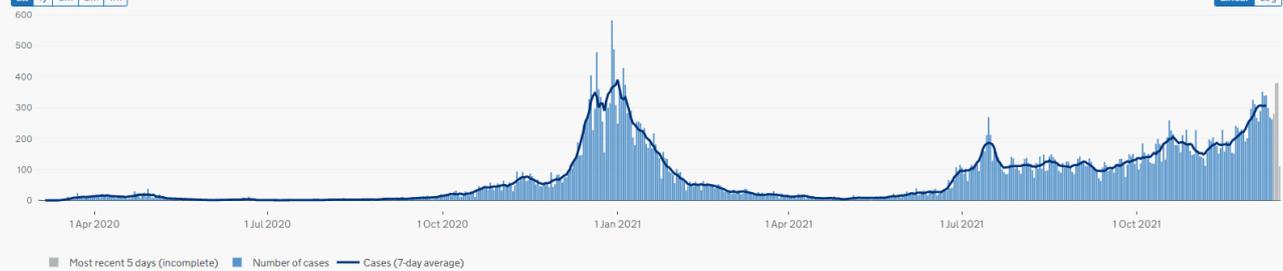
#### Cases by specimen date

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.

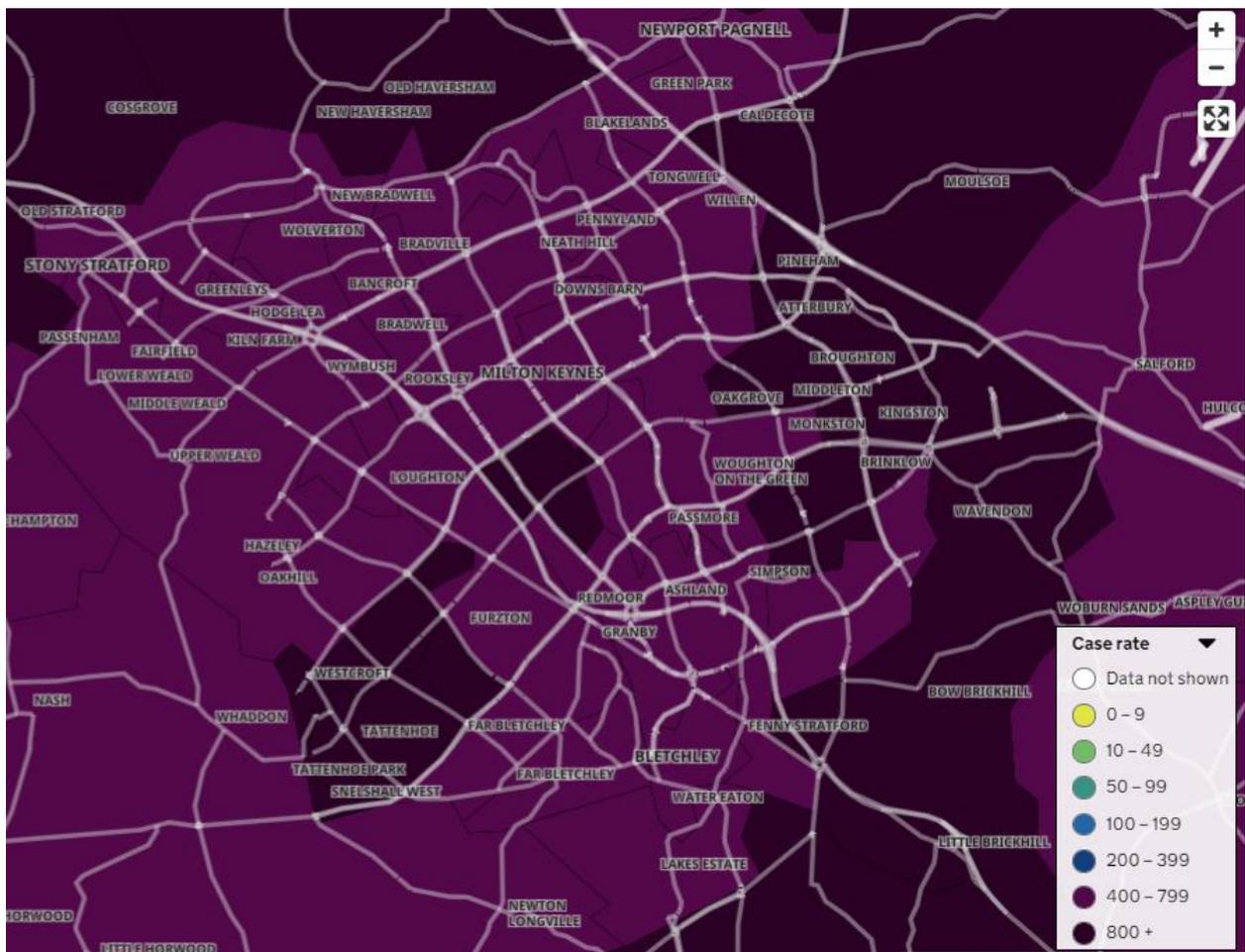
Daily Cumulative Data About

all 1y 6m 3m 1m

Linear Log



### Case rate per 100,000 people for 7-day period ending on 11 December 2021



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