



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



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Renu Elston
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

18 March 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update 4

Following the Government's latest advice to people who may be infected with COVID-19 to self-isolateⁱ with their whole household for 14 days, and for vulnerable people to minimise social contactⁱⁱ for 12 weeks or more, Walton High no longer has the staff needed to have all students in school. Therefore, we have reluctantly taken the decision that from **Thursday 19 March, Walton High will be closed to students in Years 7, 8 and 9**. Work will be set via Firefly for students who have access to a PC/tablet and the internet. For students who are unable to continue their learning in this way, work will be given to these students at the end of the day. Any additional work that may be needed will be posted home. Should the school's closure be for an extended period of time, we will make arrangements for these students to be able to post their work back to their teachers for feedback.

Special arrangements are available for children of NHS workers who are unable to make other arrangements for their children to be looked after. If this applies to your family, please send you child to school tomorrow as usual and email either bl-attendance@mket.org.uk or wt-attendance@mket.org.uk so we know to expect them.

We have prioritised the attendance of students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 as the Government has still not clarified the situation with GCSEs, BTECs and A Level exams and we recognise that this uncertainty is causing our senior students a lot of additional anxiety.

Although the school is open to students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13, as mentioned in Update 3 sent via Group Call on Monday, we believe parents should decide whether it is appropriate for their children to attend school given their family circumstances. Consequently, the lessons for these year groups will also be published on Firefly for those who decide their children should study at home. If you do take this decision, please send an email to either bl-attendance@mket.org.uk or wt-attendance@mket.org.uk so we know not to expect them.

How students access work set via Firefly

Lessons will be uploaded to Firefly and set as tasks to be completed by students in line with their usual timetable. Finished work should be uploaded or completed on an alternative platform, such as My Maths or Kerboodle, if so directed.

How students access written support from their teachers

Students working from home who need support with their teacher may contact them by using:

- Firefly messenger
- Email

How a teacher can talk to a student

If a teacher believes they need to talk to a student about their work, the teacher will contact them by arrangement via Skype or Microsoft Teams.

In order to facilitate this, students need to have Skype for Business and Microsoft Teams on their devices.

On a PC or Mac, these services are accessible through the internet browser at office.com (login with MKET email address and password).

To use these services on an iOS device or Android, a free app can be downloaded from the relevant app store. For these services to work, the devices must have a microphone and camera.

Visiting the school

To minimise staff contact with people, Reception at both campuses will be closed to visitors from Thursday. Should you wish to contact the school, please phone or email and someone will get back to you but this may take longer than usual.

Year 9 Parent Consultation meetings scheduled for 25 March

The Year 9 parents' consultation event has been postponed and will take place later in the year. Further details will follow once things become clearer.

Readathon

Walton High's annual Readathon has also been postponed until later in the year.

Safeguarding children

All students will be given advice on how to stay safe whilst not at school and what to do should they feel at risk of harm. Any parents with concerns should email safeguarding@mket.org.uk.

It is only a matter of time before all schools are instructed to close by the Government. However, even during the period of closure which may last weeks or even months, we will continue to support our students' wellbeing as well as doing our best to ensure children receive the best education possible in the circumstances.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>