

Dear Parents/Guardians,

June 2009

Changes to Home to School Bus transport from September 2009

I am writing to inform you about important changes to the current East Riding of Yorkshire direct bus services to the school that will come in to effect from September 2009. If your child currently travels or intends to travel on any of the current bus services listed below,

- **954 Hessle / Anlaby service**
- **748 Market Weighton / Beverley service**
- **749 Winestead / East Hull service**

please read this letter.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has unfortunately decided to withdraw their subsidised transport routes, as above to the school, from September 2009. They will continue to provide free transport only for eligible pupils, and no services will be provided for the majority of non eligible students. Whilst this is within the law it is very regrettable and I can assure you that I have strongly protested to the Council about the withdrawal of services and its impact on parents and students, but the situation remains that services will be withdrawn from September.

I am now arranging for the school to provide its own bus services which will operate from September 2009. The school will be responsible for entering into contracts with bus companies to provide the bus services, and the current routes and times are intended to remain unchanged. Regrettably however the cost will need to rise.

The current bus services are subsidised by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and from September, when the services are operated by the school, the school will not receive any additional school funding to help offset the cost to parents. I intend to keep the increase in cost to a minimum, and to partly subsidise the service from the school's budget. However some of the increase in costs unfortunately needs to be passed on to parents and the daily return bus fare will need to increase from the current £2 per return journey to a minimum of £2.50 to £3. The final bus fare will be decided when I know the final costs of operating the services.

There are more important changes to how the school service will operate that you need to be aware of. The school will collect students' bus fares through issuing a school bus pass that entitles your child to travel on the nominated bus route. Students **will not be able to pay the bus driver directly**, and will be refused entry on to the bus if they do not have a bus pass, or proof of their entitlement in their school diary. Bus passes will be sold on a termly basis and there will be no refund or reduction in cost for days when your child does not use the bus. The only exception to this is any absence of over 14 days, which will be considered on merit. Therefore your child will not be able to save money by say travelling to school on the bus and travelling home by car, or only taking the bus on some days. This is because the school's daily cost of operating the services is fixed, and remains the same regardless of how many students use the bus each day. The same termly charge will apply for each route, and will apply across the route to students.

In order to run the services as efficiently as possible, and to keep costs to a minimum, I will need to know how many students intend to travel on each route, as this will determine the size of the bus provided. I will therefore soon be providing forms within the school, and to new students to the school, for you to apply for a bus pass. The new procedures will be widely publicised within the school so that students can collect an application form for a bus pass.

I would like to give you an estimate of the likely cost of the termly bus pass. The number of school days per term differs, with the autumn term being the longest at around 74 days. The charge for a term of 74 school days will be £185 based on £2.50 per day, or £210 based on £3 per day. You will be able to pay for the bus pass in two instalments, at the beginning of each half term. In exceptional circumstances you can apply in writing to pay weekly. Please be aware that if you do not pay for the bus pass your child will not be able to travel on the bus. A form will be sent out towards the end of each term for you to confirm that you still require a bus pass for the following term. Therefore your commitment to use the bus service is on a termly basis.

I appreciate that you may be worried about the forthcoming changes and how they will operate and may like to have the opportunity to raise questions. I have organised a **meeting on Thursday 25th June at 7.00pm** to take place in the school hall, and I will go through the new arrangements in more detail and answer your questions.

Yours sincerely

Ged Fitzpatrick
Head Teacher