



Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy

Old Fallings Lane Wolverhampton WV10 8BL
Telephone: 01902 558250 Fax: 01902 558251
Website: www.olsc.org.uk
Email: info@olsemail.org.uk
Principal: Miss T.H.L Ellis B.Ed

25th July 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Continuation of Price Subsidy for Home to School Bus Travel

In the last week I have received a number of queries from parents with regards to the upcoming changes to the method for purchasing tickets for home-to-school bus travel. As a result of these queries and the feedback I have been given, I would like to share with you some of the factors that were taken into account when making the decision to implement these changes.

What's changed?

As part of our work to continually improve the safeguarding of our students, we have taken the decision to move towards a cashless environment within school. From September, students will no longer be able to pay cash for home-to-school bus travel and instead we will move to a bus pass that can be purchased from the school merchandise website. We believe that this will not only help to reduce the risk of students carrying cash to school, it will also help to remove instances of counterfeit bus tickets being presented for use.

As you may be aware, the school provides a subsidy towards the cost of the coaches that are provided. During the last academic year this subsidy was equal to £315 per student and cost a total of £44,000 for the full year. Having reviewed our funding position for the next academic year, we are no longer able to continue to subsidise this service to the same level and it has been necessary to adjust the price structure we currently have. However, I am pleased to say that a subsidy will continue, albeit at a reduced level.

Based on a termly pass, the impact of these changes mean that the cost per journey has increased from 50p to 65p with a total increase of £60 for the year per pupil.

To comply with road safety regulations and to ensure that everyone who purchases a pass will have a seat available, we will continue to manage our seating allocation. As you will appreciate, the Academy must still pay for and keep a seat available for your child, even if he/she does not use it on any particular day. For 2016/17 we have a total of 140 passes available at a cost of £255 per year per pass. To enable parents to budget more easily, these passes will be available on a termly basis at a cost of £85. Various payment methods are available, including the use of debit, credit and pre-paid cards.

Anyone who is unable to purchase a ticket on-line should contact the Academy's finance department for assistance. There are alternative ways to pay, should you wish to pay weekly or monthly. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact the finance department on 01902 551589 or email finance@olsemail.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Williams

Business Manager

