

Dear Parents and Carers

Continuing Arriva bus strikes in December

As you will probably be aware there has been an ongoing industrial dispute affecting Arriva buses which provide some of the bus services that take our students to and from College.

Our overall attendance in school has improved significantly this term and is currently above the national average. We encourage high levels of attendance because we know attendance is linked directly to the success of students in school. For this reason we made the decision to pay for a replacement bus, and some additional minibuses, to provide additional services of our own on strike days. I know this has been appreciated by many students and their families.

Unfortunately, the industrial dispute has yet to be resolved and the trade union involved has recently announced an escalation in the level of strikes planned in December. The cost of us providing transport has been met out of the school's budget and for us to continue this indefinitely is unsustainable as we would have to make cuts in other areas to maintain this. Consequently, we have reluctantly had to take the decision to stop offering this service for the further strike days planned in December.

We are aware that this will present some students with significant challenges in getting into College for the start of the day at 8.30am. We have high expectations regarding students' punctuality to school and lessons but in the circumstances where a child has had difficulty in arriving on time due to the lack of their normal Arriva bus service we will take this into account. We would rather your child arrives at school a little late in these circumstances than not come at all.

Hopefully the industrial dispute will be resolved soon and we can resume the normal transport arrangements but in the meantime can I thank you in anticipation of your support and determination to get your child into school on Arriva strike days.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'A' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Mr A Boyle
Headteacher