

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Late Buses**

As you are aware from our previous letters and media coverage, continued real-terms cuts to school funding in recent years have led to a direct reduction in the number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in our school. In response to increased budget pressure and costs, we have also narrowed our curriculum offer, increased teacher contact time and reduced departmental curriculum budgets. We have been doing all we can to shield our students from the school budget cuts, but the lack of investment in education is really biting.

In the summer term, we reluctantly made the decision that the next thing that had to be cut from our budget was the courtesy after school late bus provision, as the cost of £17,000 per year is simply unaffordable. Please be assured this was not a decision that was taken lightly and we shared our concerns with our CEO and Board of Directors. We would like to thank those of you who contacted the school and offered to work with us to preserve our late bus provision by suggesting a parental contribution to the costs.

We are fortunate that our Board of Directors has given us permission to dip into our emergency reserves to subsidise the late buses. This means that we will now be able to run the late buses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings starting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The cost of a single fare will be £1.50 per trip and blocks of tickets are available for £14.00 for 10 trips. If you would like to purchase late bus tickets, please use 'parent pay' and students will be able to collect their tickets from the Main Office. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding will be provided with late bus tickets.

We are hoping that students take full advantage of this precious facility so that it can be preserved for the future. The late bus usage by students will be carefully monitored over the next two terms and reviewed in April 2019.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



**MS SARAH GOSWELL**  
**Deputy Headteacher**