April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

**Letter A - School Transport**

**Managed Bus Service**

Here at St Nicholas Catholic High we have a bus provision which is managed by school, not the local authority. This means requests for places and payments on the bus services are made directly to school. We run 5 separate bus routes, in partnership with 4 bus operators, as follows.

* Purple - Winsford via Whitegate
* Yellow - Winsford via Wharton, Davenham and Moulton
* Green - Helsby/Frodsham, via Kingsley, Crowton and Weaverham
* Blue - Middlewich via Rudheath
* Red - Warrington via Stretton, Pickmere and Kingsmead

We operate a cashless payment system and offer two options via the schools online ParentPay system for regular and occasional use;

Annual bus pass: 2021-22 average cost is £3.60 per daily return journey, please note this cost does vary depending on the route. Payments for passes can be made in instalments on a reducing balance to allow the cost to be spread over the year, however, it is requested that the half term cost must have been paid for in full by the required dates before the second half term commences

Individual travel card: 2021-22 cost is £4.00 per daily return journey. A minimum of £20 to cover 10 individual journeys is required, cards must be purchased in advance of travel. Once 10 journeys have been taken, further payment will be required to purchase additional journeys.

**Please note current prices are subject to review each summer term for the following academic year based on bus operator charges and passenger numbers.**

**Travel assistance**

Your child may be deemed eligible for free transport assistance paid for by the local authority. Last year Cheshire West and Chester Council made a change to the process for determining eligibility for home to school transport for children transferring to secondary school. Children will automatically have their eligibility assessed if you have applied for a secondary school place on time. You will be informed of the outcome by 1st June prior to your child starting school (please note this does not apply to change in preference/late/in year applications). If you are a resident of a neighbouring local authority, Cheshire East for example, you will need to make an application to your own local authority. If your child is deemed not to be eligible for transport you will be advised of the appeal process in your outcome letter.  If your child is deemed to be eligible for free transport assistance, your travel details will be sent out to you by mid-August **however you must still contact school directly to reserve a place on the relevant bus route.**

**Request a place**

Please can **all** Y7 parents/carers wishing to request a place on one of our bus routes, please complete the online application form by clicking on the link below. This information is essential to enable the school to plan capacity requirements for the 2022-23 academic year therefore, please complete the form by **30th April 2022** at the latest so we are able to confirm Y7 numbers required for each bus route, in addition to existing student users. Any requests for places made after this date may not be considered.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw___TRCxThCWXByJIm8eS4TQ4pUtUNDk3UVk4R1hXNlhQWUVJNTJEMVRBUlNTNS4u>

**Train transport**

Public trains operated by Northern Rail run from Greenbank Station, 5-10mins walk from St Nicholas, to Chester and Manchester via Knutsford and from Hartford station running between Crewe and Liverpool.

Please visit the schools website for more detailed and up-to-date information at <https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/travel-details/>

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at f.ohanlon@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

**Mrs F O’Hanlon**

**Finance Officer**