

25 March 2020



## West Kirby Grammar School

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Dear Parents/Carers

### School Transport

In these unprecedented times we have already taken the following steps regarding home to school travel:

**Merseytravel supported school services** - these have continued to operate this week for Key Worker children and are under review by Merseytravel and a separate email will be issued in due course for students who may use these buses. Any other queries should be addressed directly to Merseytravel at [ask@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](mailto:ask@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

**Wallasey school operated bus services (Al's Coaches)** - from today we have stepped down the service to one vehicle that will service both Calday and West Kirby Grammar Schools each day. This is for the children of Key Workers only. We are working with the operator to understand whether this may be able to continue into the Easter holidays in the event that schools are required to remain open for the children of Key Workers. **Please advise us if you would still require this service, if available, during the Easter Holidays.**

**Ellesmere Port, Chester and North Wales school operated coach services (Carvers)** - we have paused all services with this operator as the numbers who required travel were so small we would have had, in some cases, less than one child on each of the coaches.

In respect of the school operated services, the majority of parents/carers have already completed their Direct Debit plan for the 2019/20 academic year with an expectation of their child being at school and using the service for 190 days.

We are carefully working through the financial impact of these changes and we would like to reassure you that the operators are not paid in advance of the services being delivered. It will take us a while to fully establish our remaining obligations to the two operators and to parents/carers. Once we have completed this process then we expect to be in a position to make a partial refund to parents/carers. This process should be completed by the end of May 2020.

We ask parents not to cancel their direct debit. We are investigating whether we can refund via Go Cardless, however, it is more likely that refunds will be made by cheque and **we will not contact you to ask for your bank details**. We would be grateful for your patience during this time as there are a lot of other arrangements to work through whilst the majority of our team members are working remotely off-site.

In the summer we will begin working on plans for home to school travel for the 2020/21 academic year and we will make further announcements in due course.

Best wishes.

**Calday Grange and West Kirby Grammar Schools**