

Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we approach the end of September, we are already looking at some of the things we do to try and make them work as well as they can; as I know some of you are aware and have spoken to me about, transport has become something of an issue we are looking into.

To ensure we are starting the day in the best possible way – as well as closing it, safely – we are contacting both Transport Services and Parents/Carers in regards to drop offs and pick-ups.

There are clearly issues in the roads leading to the Academy, and the Heads of the three schools in the area are meeting next week to identify ways we can work together to make that easier, but to some degree we rely on the motorists using that area to simply abide by highway code and road traffic regulations as well as their own sense of community values to enable smooth movement of traffic.

The main aim is to transition learners in and out of the Academy safely. To achieve this, we are going to be implementing the following based on what we've learned over the last few weeks as well as your feedback:

Morning Routine:

- Whilst the site gates are open from 08:30, we do require learners to remain in their taxis until the learner entrance opens at 08:45. This is to ensure that we can appropriately safeguard our children and young people as well as mitigate known and unknown risks. We do not offer pre-school care arrangements.
- If you as a parent/carer walk your child to school, please ensure that you remain with your child until the learner entrance is open at 08:45. We welcome you to make use of the café, if you choose to.

Afternoon Routine/s:

Monday – Thursday:

- To alleviate the traffic congestion on Anderson Avenue, we will be opening our main gates at 14:45. Learners will start transitioning down to their taxis from around 14:50 and are scheduled to leave site at 15:00.

Friday:

- Main school gates will be opened at 13:10. Learners will be transitioning down to their taxis from 13:15 and are scheduled to leave site at 13:30.

When dropping off, can we observe the following, please:

- Parent lane is marked in blue on the attached map; please try to stay in this lane at all times, but if you want to park up in the bays and bring your child across to the front of the Academy, feel free to do so.
- Taxi lane is marked in red, and will mean that taxis can be unloaded safely (**once they are in front of the building**).

We want to get learners in and out of transport safely and quickly; please help us to do this by making sure you bear the above in mind, so that we can work together to keep everyone safe in what are busy times in the school day.



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Please don't hesitate to chat with me about any of these details. Your support is required and very much appreciated if we are to ensure that the Academy day can run as smoothly as it possibly can.

You will also see a series of **Teams Links** to online meetings that I am hosting to speak about these transport issues on the week of **02/10/2023**; please attend these where you are able. We are scheduling them at a range of times and days across the week to try and ensure everyone gets the opportunity to offer their views. May I respectfully remind you that although this can be a difficult topic to discuss, there is of course a need to consider the wide range of needs across all of the learners who attend the Academy and so, it is not helpful to focus on individual cases in what will be a public meeting.

There is always a chance to speak at a time that suits you, please contact the main office to make an appointment if you feel that would work best for you; working with you on this and all matters is important to us and I have had the chance to do that so far with some parents which has been very helpful for me.

This approach to transport may of course be somewhat different to what you are used to, and we understand that change is not always easy to manage, but we are equally certain that we share that same aim of creating every possible chance of success even in some of the smaller details – thank you for your support, and I look forward to meeting with you in person when the opportunity arises.

Regards,

W. Robinson

Interim Deputy Principal.

