



# Cheslyn Hay Academy

Part of Windsor Academy Trust

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Headteacher Ms N Crookshank BA (Hons) MA

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16 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on the situation regarding the decommissioning of the 868 & 854 bus services by National Express, taking effect at the end of this term.

We have been in discussion with Staffordshire County Council and have been working to support our students living both inside and outside the county boundary. As part of these discussions the County Council advised us that they had been given inaccurate information by National Express, regarding the usage of buses by students living outside the county boundary, as paying customers and as such have underestimated the issue at hand.

As previously advised, Select Travel will continue to provide the 67, 71 and 71A services in January 2020 and coaches provided by PD York and Sovereign Coaches will replace National Express buses.

As an interim measure, the capacities of coaches on some of the new routes have been increased in order to accommodate non-eligible county bus pass students in vacant seats.

These vacant seats must be applied for, via the County Council, by parents and will be issued on a first come first serve basis. These seats are offered free of charge at this time, but, there may be a charge for these vacant seats after Easter 2020. We would therefore advise you to contact the council as soon as possible if you wish to try and access one of these seats.

If students are granted one of the vacant seats they are and will be expected to travel on the bus or coach as defined by the bus pass issued to them. If students attempt to board the wrong coach/bus or without a valid bus pass they will be refused entry by the provider.

If you are unsuccessful in gaining one of these vacant seats, Select Bus Services run paid bus services for the 67 (Featherstone/Brinsford), the 71 (Featherstone) and the 71A (Essington) in the morning and afternoon.

The 71A runs through Essington and along Upper Sneyd Lane, then travelling to school. This is currently the closest accessible public transport point to the county boundary located near New Invention/Coppice Farm.

The routes of the new coach services and the Select buses can be found on our website at the following link <http://www.cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk/parents/>.

As a longer term solution Staffordshire County Council are also in talks with Select Buses to establish whether they are able to offer a paid bus service serving New Invention/Coppice Farm in order for students living in these areas to access a paid bus service. If financially viable for them, this service is likely to take effect after the Easter break.

We continue to work closely with Staffordshire County Council to resolve this issue.

Yours Sincerely

Ms N Crookshank  
Headteacher

