

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Dear parent/ carer,

I wrote to parents on 4th August 2020 to inform them of Lancashire County Council's decision to stop the no. 24 (Marsh) school bus service. Their decision was based on the financial situation of the bus service.

The bus service costs a great deal more to run, compared to the revenue from ticket sales and therefore the bus service was running at a significant loss. Over this past year the Department for Education has provided funding for school bus services which duplicated other services or operated to accommodate social distancing in response to the pandemic. As a result of this, the S24 service has been temporarily contracted by the county council.

Throughout the pandemic, I have challenged the decision taken by the council. I have explained the importance of removing all possible barriers to our young people accessing their education, and stressed the need for a provision of transport between the Marsh housing estate and CLHS. However, I have been informed that nothing can be done to change the decision, and despite these appeals, the no. 24 bus service will cease to operate in the next academic year.

I completely understand the distress that this decision will cause our families. This service has served the Marsh community for a number of years and our school community is dependent on the service for transporting pupils to and from school safely. Sadly, this situation is beyond the control of the school.

I urge parents to be active about this matter by:

1. Planning their child's journey to and from school in the next academic year; car sharing, use of public transport and / or route planning for bike or travel by foot.
 2. Writing to your local councillor to raise your concerns about the ceasing of this transport service.
- If you would like to discuss this matter with me, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as I can. However, please be mindful that this is not my decision and I am not responsible for the decision being made.

Kind regards,



Victoria O'Farrell
Acting Principal

