7th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the past few months we have re-tendered for the school bus services to Preston and Blackburn to ensure that we have a service that provides the best value.  For at least the last 10 years we have held our bus fares at the same level of £1 per journey.  Obviously over the last 10 years the cost to the school has gradually increased and this means that we are now subsidising bus fares to the tune of over £100,000 per year which is clearly not sustainable.  With the best value service (who are our current providers, in fact, Moving People) the actual cost per journey is now £1.70.  We recognise that such a significant increase in one year would be unreasonable so we are going to increase the costs to £1.50 per journey from September and review again this time next year.  It is worth noting that this is still significantly cheaper than [Lancashire’s school bus travel](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/school-bus-season-tickets/?page=2).

At the moment we offer a couple of discounts on bus fares:

* **Multiple child discounts**:  We will continue to honour the discount given to second and third children where those children are currently in years 7 to 10 (years 8 to 11 from September).  New students will pay the full fare;
* **Pupil premium**:  We will continue to offer a discount to students eligible for the pupil premium, but this will be at a flat rate of £60 per student.  Parents/carers will have the choice as to whether to spend this discount on travel, on uniform or on resources.  Full details of how our pupil premium grant is spent is [on our website](https://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk/care-support-guidance/pupil-premium), as always.
* **Gregson Lane**: We will continue to offer a discount to students catching the bus from Gregson Lane, the cost of travel is £285.00 per year.

This therefore means that bus pass prices from September 2021 will be:

* £570.00 per year - **£57.00 per month**
* £510 per year- **£51.00 per month** (for eligible pupil premium students, if you are eligible Mrs Parker will send out a separate letter regarding your pupil premium choice)
* £285 per year - **£28.50** per month for a second child
* £285 per year - **£28.50** per month for a third child
* Bank Details:  Sort Code 30-96-85.
* Account Number:  39653868
* Account Name:  Walton-le-Dale High School.
* IMPORTANT - Please ensure your child’s name is included as a reference on the standing order.

Standing orders will run from the **1st August 2021 until 1st May 202***2* for the new academic year with your first standing order payment due on the 1st August 2021. Please ensure you have put your child’s name as the reference.

It is never nice to talk about money, particularly when we need to increase the cost of something, but the current position is neither sustainable or fair.  Should you have any questions about these matters, please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Eckersley (s.eckersley@waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

**

James Harris

Headteacher