



Headteacher: Tim Marston

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Dear Parent & Carers

Ausden Clark Bus Service

You will be aware that since returning to school in September we have had a number of issues with the bus service that runs from Hamilton and Thurmaston to The Roundhill Academy and Wreake Valley Academy. We were not able to find another bus company to run the service commercially and therefore have had to contract a bus company to provide a service ourselves. Due to the number of bus companies that have gone out of business during the lockdown period, buses and the prices charged are at a premium.

In order to support families and keep the costs reasonable, Bradgate Education Partnership Trust agreed to subsidise the service. We have kept the service under review due to the ever-changing Covid-19 situation and because the number of students using the bus across both schools was far less than had been indicated on the survey we sent out to parents.

Unfortunately, we have to inform you that we will be unable to continue with the service in the New Year as the small number of students using the service does not make this financially viable. Thursday 17th December will be the last day that the service runs.

This is a decision that has not been taken lightly, we realise that for some families the impact of this is significant. We have contacted Ausden Clark, the bus company to see if they would reconsider operating a commercial route. On current numbers this is not a viable proposition for them, however to support us they have introduced a daily pass to see if this will increase the numbers enough to make a commercial service a possibility. We have also been in touch with Leicester City Council to see if they can support the students affected. So far we have not had any confirmation as to whether they can help with this but we will keep chasing this and let parents know if this is an option.

We apologise for the inconvenience this causes and have tried to give families as much notice as possible so that alternative arrangements can be found.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. Marston'.

Tim Marston
Head Teacher