

Ref: PKI

March 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

### **Restaurant & Transport charges 2017/18**

I am sure you will be aware of the significant challenges schools are facing with their budgets. Changes in the minimum funding for schools and rising staffing costs are putting school finances under extreme pressure. The Department for Education has recognised that by 2020, schools will face a real terms decrease of £300,000 per year due to the impact of reduced funding.

As a result of these funding cuts, all schools are making difficult choices to ensure their budgets are balanced for both the short and longer term. Many schools are meeting the financial challenges by reducing the number of teachers and even asking parents to make a financial contribution in order to balance their budgets.

In order to ensure that we can maintain outstanding provision for teaching and learning, we have had to identify areas where potential savings can be made.

#### **Bus Transport**

For many years, Brooke Weston Academy has heavily subsidised transport provision for students. We are no longer in a position to provide this level of subsidy.

Currently, the Academy provides twelve bus routes. However, following a transport review, from September 2017 this will be reduced to nine. We have taken great care to ensure minimum impact and maximum efficiency.

It is important to note that some routes and stops have changed. Please look carefully at the enclosed transport information and choose the most appropriate route for your child.

Currently, the fee for bus transport is £460 per year or £92 per term. From September 2017, this will increase to £550 per year or £110 per term. This is an extra £2.25 a week or 45p per day to transport your child to and from the Academy.

**Due to the significant changes to both bus routes and stops it is important that the attached transport application form is completed for all students, indicating which alternative mode of transport they intend to use if they are not using Brooke Weston Academy transport. Please return it to the finance office as a matter of urgency.**

Parents who pay by monthly standing order might like to contact their bank in order to increase their payments to £46 per month with effect from August 2017. If you would like to start making payments by standing order or are interested in making payments via the internet, please contact the Finance Office who will be pleased to advise you.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that there is an annual commitment to using our transport and that any changes must be advised in writing to the Finance Office giving at least four weeks notice. Would parents please note that students **must** only use their designated route to and from Brooke Weston and that it is not possible for students to take alternative routes after school.

### **Restaurant and food costs**

Food and energy costs continue to increase year on year. Whilst we have worked with our suppliers to secure the very best rates for Brooke Weston Academy, it has been necessary for us to make a small increase to all of our meal options. The attached price list details the meal options available and information about Brooke Weston's secure online payment service, WisePay.

Whilst students obviously have the option of bringing their own breakfasts and packed lunches we feel that the meal packages, which include a drink and a dessert, continue to represent good value for money. The meals provided by Partnership Catering are healthy, balanced and nutritious and prepared daily from fresh, seasonal ingredients. We are constantly improving and updating the choices offered and endeavour to keep prices at a realistic level for the quality of food provided.

It is regrettable that we have had to increase these costs, but I am sure you must appreciate we have to remain focussed on the provision and outcomes for our students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Kirkbride', written in a cursive style.

Pete Kirkbride  
Associate Principal