



SST/ARA

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you to about the bus service that Brooke Weston Academy operates. The service is paid for solely by parental subscriptions as the Academy has no entitlement to school transport from the local authority. Offering this service has always been important to us, but with COVID-19 the offer in the **new academic year** could be very different, both in relation to service and cost.

We understand that these are difficult times filled with a great deal of unknown. None of us yet know what returning to school after the summer break will look like. Nevertheless, we do need to begin planning and school transport is an important part of that. The scope of any transport offer by the Academy is dependent both on government guidance during the covid-19 outbreak and, locally, the levels of parental demand. As both are outside the Academy's direct control, we cannot give any guarantees about the service we will offer after the summer.

Some changes to the previous service that could happen are:

- ◆ Significantly reduced number of buses and routes
- ◆ Reduced pick up points in order to streamline the service
- ◆ Requirement for parents to drop students off to a central location
- ◆ Fewer children on the bus in order to enable social distancing
- ◆ An increase in the price due to fewer students, stops and multiple journeys
- ◆ Strict behaviour expectations and consequences for students
- ◆ Staggered pick up and drop off times

We would be extremely grateful if all parents whose children used the bus service this year could complete a short survey to help us understand their intentions for **next academic year**. This will help us to make decisions about the service, routes and cost. The link to the survey is here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=t1wP0zVXNEK8ms3J3ihp685zUYfwKCFr9hLUhymGIUOTBaTTBENkQ3MzFaMDVBOE9LTERZTTZQVC4u>

Please complete the survey by **Friday 19th June 2020**.

We hope we won't have to make the changes listed above, but we will not know more until we have gathered this information from you and heard from the government. As soon as it is possible to update you on our planning, we will of do so at once.

We hope that you are all well and looking after yourself and families. We look forward to welcoming students back to Brooke Weston Academy in the future.

Yours sincerely

Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal

Vikki Williams
Chair of Governors

See link below is to current guidance on the use of public transport

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>