

“To Know
To Care
To Live”

Wednesday 10 November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Further to previous correspondence regarding issues with the school bus services, I wanted to update you following a meeting I had with TFGM last Friday:

I met with two senior members of TFGM's Planning Department, to discuss solutions to our ongoing issues; in particular with the late-running of several routes (including the 770, 772 and 776) and the over-crowding on two routes in particular (770 and 776).

Unfortunately, TFGM advised us that there is a shortage of both drivers and buses across the whole of Greater Manchester and no additional services can be added for Altrincham College. However, there is the possibility of our students being able to share routes with other schools to alleviate over-crowding.

The following have been suggested as alternatives:

To alleviate over-crowding on the 776:

- Students living between school and the Barrington Road/Stockport Road junction are encouraged to use AC's 773 service (run by Stagecoach).
- Students living between Barrington Road and Broadheath retail park are encouraged to use the 773 service, disembarking at Barrington Road and walking the remaining journey home.
- Students living in the vicinity of Broadheath Primary/Sinderland Road are able to use the 765 service (for St. Ambrose College, operated by Belle Vue) in the morning only. Students can alight at the Thorley Rd/Old Meadow Lane junction and walk the 200m to school (a lollipop lady enables safe crossing across Thorley Ln). This service should have capacity for approximately 10 additional passengers. A copy of the morning timetable is attached.

To alleviate over-crowding on the 770 (morning only):

- Students boarding services on Brooklands Road are able to use the 764 service (for St. Ambrose College).

It is useful to note that students from any school can use any school service, boarding / alighting at any official bus stop.

Regarding the late running of the new 772 route – if there is no improvement to the route starting at Sale Grammar School, TFGM will re-time the service.

Regarding the late running of the 774 route – this route is currently being re-timed, at the request of the operator (Go Goodwins) and an update is expected soon.



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TFGM have advised that they will continue to monitor the time-keeping and over-crowding on the 776 service and make any adjustments they can, in collaboration with Belle Vue; they are currently discussing an additional short route in the afternoon to Broadheath, and will update us as soon as possible.

I also raised with the TFGM the issue of the poor public transport service around school and explained that this poor service puts additional pressure on the school buses, as students have few options if their bus is late / not running / denies them travel. I will be contacting Andy Burnham and Sir Graham Brady to ask them to support Altrincham College in petitioning for better public transport to this area of Timperley/Hale.

I appreciate that the current situation in which we find ourselves is unacceptable and share the frustration of parents, carers and students. Please be assured we are doing everything in our power to improve things for our students' journey to and from school.

I would encourage you to continue contacting both TFGM and the bus operators with your concerns:

TFGM: Customer.Relations@tfgm.com

Belle Vue (771, 772, 776): sales@bellevue-mcr.com

Stagecoach (770, 773 (pm)): manchester.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com

Diamond Buses (773 (am)): commentsdiamondbusnorthwest@rotala.co.uk

Go Goodwins (774): enquiries@gogoodwins.co.uk

Could I take this opportunity to remind you that all students who regularly use the school bus services, and/or public transport outside of school, should have an IGO pass. Details on how to order an IGO are available on our website here: <https://www.altrinchamcollege.com/buses> or via TFGM here: <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/igo-pass>.

More details on the bus routes and services are available on our website (<https://www.altrinchamcollege.com/buses>), along with route maps. We have created Google map links for each service, and have uploaded a colour coded map of all routes, onto this page.

with thanks for your continued support,



Ms K Earle
Headteacher

