

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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OCS/20220315/TF

15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## **641 BUS SERVICE BETWEEN SOUTHBOURNE, ROWLANDS CASTLE, LEIGH PARK AND OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

I write to inform you that we have been put on notice by Portsmouth City Coaches that they intend to withdraw the 641 Bus Service from the end of this academic year. The reason for this decision is because of the rising costs of fuel, wages and other overhead costs of running the 641 Bus Service is not financially sustainable. You will recall that Portsmouth City Coaches have previously said they would withdraw this service but was reprieved after the Home to School Transport team, of Hampshire County Council agreed to pay a grant to support the continuation of the running of the 641 Bus Service. The grant was authorised from the central government funding allocated to Hampshire County Council to help support local transport provision during the Coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic. Sadly it has been confirmed that no further grants are available or will be paid by Hampshire County Council.

Originally Portsmouth City Coaches wanted to cease this service at the end of this spring term but the School has managed to negotiate with the bus company to delay the cessation of the service until the end of this academic year. In order for this to happen the fares will have to increase to £3.00 for a single fare, £5.00 for a return fare and a £15.00 supplement will be charged for all pass holders. These increases will come into effect on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The School is looking at alternative options for this service from September 2022 but at this stage we cannot guarantee that an alternative solution will be found. We will however aim to keep Parents up to date with any progress we make in trying to resolve this situation.

Once again we thank you for your forbearance whilst we try and resolve this issue.

Yours faithfully

T S A Finch  
Director of Business and Finance