

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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07721932

Our Ref: TF/DL

19th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

641 BUS SERVICE BETWEEN SOUTHBOURNE, ROWLANDS CASTLE, LEIGH PARK AND OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

I am pleased to inform you that the 641-bus service, will continue as a private contract bus service with Portsmouth City Coaches and the School, during the next academic year, starting in September 2023. However, due to significant rises in the cost of running this service there will be an approximate 7% increase to the cost of passes to use this service on a regular basis and the charges for ad hoc journeys. The School has taken the decision to subsidise the cost of this bus service so that the full cost of the contract is not passed on to Parents. These charges will be kept under review along with the route that the bus service takes and parents of children living on or near this route are strongly encouraged to take up the opportunity of buying an annual pass for this bus service in order to secure its future.

The fare arrangements have been reviewed in light of the inflationary increases that the bus company will be charging the School and in order to make this service financially viable the ad hoc single fare has had to be increased to £3.75 for a single fare. These will be a flat fare for any length of journey on this service. Ten trip tickets must be purchased from the finance office via ScoPay, cash or cheque, made payable to 'Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form', and collected from the finance office before travel. The cost of a Ten Trip ticket is £37.50.

The purchase of an annual pass is available at the cost of £970 per pupil and in order to spread the cost for Parents, the School will be happy to accept 10 equal payments of £97.00 by standing order from August 2023 to May 2024. Equally, parents can pay in one lump sum by cheque or bank transfer to the school account in the normal fashion. This amount represents very good value for money with return travel at an equivalent of only £5.11 per school day.

Please be advised that as a result of the number of occasions over the past year where students have tried to board this bus without a valid ticket, letter or bus pass, we must warn you that students will not be able to board the bus without a bus pass or ticket. This is the same as any other bus service operation.

This service will be kept under constant review and will only remain viable if maximum use is made by pupils living on or close to, or connecting with the 641 Bus Service route. If there are insufficient numbers of pupils using this service further price increases to fares cannot be ruled out and will be reviewed in November 2023.

If you wish to order a pass, please click on the link below to open the required form. This will need completing and submitting as soon as possible and no later than 31 July 2023. If you are ordering for a New Year 7 child, please send in a passport size photograph of them for us to use on the photo ID card. Bus pass letters or Ten Trip tickets will be issued to students before the start of the new term by email or post. These will be used in lieu of their pass. The school will endeavour to issue passes to students during their first week of term.

[Link to 641 Bus Pass Form](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T S A Finch', with a long, sweeping underline.

T S A Finch
Director of Business and Finance