

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Registered in England and Wales, Company No  
07721932

Our Ref: TF/DL

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## **654 BUS SERVICE BETWEEN HAMBLEDON, DENMEAD AND OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

I am pleased to inform you that the 654-bus service, which is a private contract bus service, will continue during the next academic year, starting in September 2024. Along with Cowplain School we have been able to negotiate a new contract and the bus service provider will change to be run by Stagecoach. The service will operate on the basis of the timetable attached and will include request stops along the route as normal.

The fare arrangements have been reviewed in light of the inflationary increases that the new retendered contract bus service will cost the School and in order to make this service financially viable the ad hoc single and return fares will be set at £2.20 for a single fare and £3.50 for a return fare. These will be flat fares for any length of journey on this service.

The purchase of an annual pass is available at the cost of £610 per pupil and in order to spread the cost for Parents the School will be happy to accept 10 equal payments of £61.00 by standing order from August 2024 to May 2025. 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 £3.21 per school day.

Whilst the School will continue to subsidise this bus service we have had to increase the fares in line with the cost charged by the Bus Company and to keep the level of financial risk to the School to a manageable level.

This service will be kept under constant review and will only remain viable if maximum use is made by pupils living in the Hambledon and Denmead area. If there are insufficient numbers of pupils using this service further price increases to fares cannot be ruled out and will be reviewed in January 2025.

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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024. 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 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 then endeavour to issue passes to students during their first week of term.

[Link to 654 Bus order 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

Enclosure:

1. 654 Timetable – September 2024