



September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID19 Bus Travel

Since we have returned the student approach and adaptability has been excellent. There are many new systems in school and our students have tried extremely hard to work with us and make school a safe place for all members of the school community.

Our only area of frustration has been some student's approach to travelling on school buses. Hopefully this communication will clarify some aspects of the information provided by Metro and Connexions and will also make clear the approach the school will take from Monday if students cannot adhere to the school bus travel guidelines.

Students wishing to travel on PHGS bus services

Prince Henry's school perspective based on clear government guidance is that all students traveling on our school bus network wear a mask. Metro and Connexions aim to follow the government guidance however they will not refuse travel and will not challenge students. The reason for this is that their drivers do not want to create safeguarding issues and because they cannot be expected to deal with students who refuse.

Students identified as not wearing a mask or not wearing a mask properly on the bus will, in the first instance, receive a school detention or a disciplinary point (if the student is in our sixth form). If they still do not wear a mask then, after communication with Parents/Carers, we may be placed in a position where we have to withdraw bus travel. It is worth noting that, although rare, this would be our approach normally if behaviour wasn't acceptable on school transport.

The current national pandemic has created heightened awareness and strong feeling towards students that do not take the necessary precautions to protect others within our school community. This has resulted in clear student communication with our teaching staff and pastoral teams regarding members of the school community that are causing concern. Although we don't staff the buses we do feel confident that we can accurately identify students who compromise the safety of others.

We recognise that the information provided by Metro and Connexions may have inadvertently created some mixed messages and hope that this communication clarifies how Connexions and Prince Henry's would like to work together in providing an effective and safe travel experience for your child.

Please could you ensure that your child prepares for their bus travel to school and is able to wear a mask at all times on the bus from Monday 21st September.

When wearing a face covering

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting on and after removing
- Only handle the straps, ties or clips
- Store it securely in a clear plastic sealable (zip-lock) bag
- If single-use, dispose of it carefully in a lidded bin and do not recycle

- If reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions

Face coverings worn as part of Prince Henry's school uniform, either in the building or outside, should be plain or have a neutral pattern (no logos or images).

Students who are exempt from wearing a mask

We are aware that some students are exempt from wearing masks for a variety of reasons. Where this is the case the student must have a conversation with their Progress Leader or Year Manager so we can ensure that this is acknowledged. We will not accept students raising this at the point they are challenged and sanctioned by a member of staff.

Additional Considerations

Whilst I am communicating about our school transport please could I take this opportunity to highlight that, where possible, your child should:

- Use alternatives to public transport
- Socially distance on the bus (although we realise that this is not possible in most cases)
- Sit next to same people during each journey

The requirement to wear a face covering on public transport is taken directly from government guidance and is a key infection control measure for all members of Prince Henry's school community. It is everyone's responsibility to consider the health of others. Your child has received this message clearly in school and we hope that you can support us by emphasising the message at home.

Yours faithfully



Mr C. Rowbottom. Associate Headteacher