



AE01AT

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### **A1 Bus Service - 2023/24 (Joint Communication from CGGS and WKGS)**

As you will be aware, we have been trying to resolve the issue of the cancellation of the A1 bus service by talking with Merseytravel and Cheshire West, and Chester Transport.

These discussions whilst useful to understand their situation, were largely fruitless. We wrote to parents last week and communicated our dissatisfaction with their responses and we have been heartened by the parental response in communicating with local councillors and other representatives, but as yet we have heard nothing further.

As a pair of schools, we have been proactively talking with Al's coaches about the service behind the scenes and what we might be able to do working together instead.

We are now in the situation where we propose to provide a 78 seater bus for students next year, our initial polling suggests that this bus would be full. However, usage figures this year do not back this figure up as we are aware that some students and parents would want this service as a backup to their normal mode of transport and that some students only use the service one-way on occasion. These factors make the funding of the service more difficult and future costs hard to forecast.

### **Initial Proposal**

Based upon achieving the full capacity of 78 passengers, the estimated cost of an annual bus pass per student for 190 school days in 2023/24 would be £855 (equivalent to £4.50 per day and only a 50p per day increase on what Al's Coaches have charged parents in 2022/23).

The route will be unchanged from 2022/23 and full details of the individual bus stops served by this service can be found at the link below. The timings will be updated to reflect the new earlier finish times at both schools.

[W1 - Grammar School lane / Caldys Grammar School - Neston Road - Al's Coaches - bustimes.org](#)

Single/daily tickets would not be available. Payments would be by direct debit and would be made over 10 months, first payment will be taken upon signing up with subsequent payments taken on the 2nd of each month @ £85.50 per month.

So that we can assess the potential demand for this new service and ensure its financial viability, please complete the form, by following the link below, before the end of Tuesday 4 July 2023 confirming whether you would want to use and pay this amount for this service:

[A1 Bus Proposal 2023/24](#)

We will use the responses to determine whether we can run the service and the future pricing.

Kind Regards,

*Andy Eckford*

**Andrew Eckford**  
Director of Finance  
West Kirby Grammar School