

Friday 5 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Runnymede Borough Council school transport service

I am writing to all those families who we believe are currently, or may be planning to use the Runnymede Borough Council school transport service, otherwise known as the Yellow Bus.

We were contacted by RBC earlier this year requesting a meeting to discuss the future of the service but the meeting was cancelled due to the lockdown. We have now received formal notification (copied below) informing us that the service will be effectively withdrawn from the end of this academic year.

We are deeply disappointed by this decision and the fact that it has been made without any consultation with the school or families who rely on the service. We have made a request for a video meeting with a representative from the council to express this disappointment and to see what can be done to continue supporting families who use the service.

We shall do all we can to try and save this service too but recent experience suggests that we are unlikely to be successful; families will therefore need to consider how they might make alternative arrangements for September. I am so sorry to be giving you this bad news, particularly given all the other challenges that families are currently facing.

Kind regards,



Mrs Moore
Principal

Dear Mrs Moore

I am writing to you regarding the discretionary school transport service that Runnymede Borough Council has contracted in support of the secondary schools in Runnymede, over a number of years.

As I am sure you are aware, the financial position of local government has changed in recent times with funding reductions by central government leaving Runnymede Borough Council in the position of losing 12 million pounds in revenue support grant. Whilst Runnymede has remained committed to deliver all its services in as cost effective a way as possible, there has also been the obligation to review services provided and contracts that are entered at the appropriate time.

As a result, I am writing to inform you that it is with regret that Runnymede Borough Council will be ending its funding for the school transport service provided to Fullbrook School, when the existing contract ends on September 5th 2020, which in reality means at the end of this academic year.

The council understands the inconvenience and concern this may cause the school and parents alike. You will be aware that prior to the Covid-19 crisis, I wrote to the school requesting a meeting to discuss any future service provision and delivery models. Unfortunately, due to the changing circumstances in the over the last couple of months such meetings were not possible. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the potential future ways in which transport could be provided.

Looking to the future, the council is keen to continue to support all secondary schools, pupils and parents of the borough. Therefore, the council are still keen to discuss possible options for the future, subject to the council having the capacity and finances to be able to do so. Should you wish to meet to discuss further please contact me using the contact details below.

Yours Faithfully

Darren Williams
Corporate Head of Community Services