

28th April 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

Post-16 Transport - September 2014

Following the information sent to parents on 7 January 2014 regarding Cumbria County Council's proposals to withdraw the subsidy for post-16 school/college transport, I am writing to update you on the current situation as we understand it.

Cumbria County Council did vote to remove the subsidy with effect from 1 September 2014 for all students entering Year 12 on this date. Students already in school Sixth Forms transferring into Year 13 in September 2014 will continue to receive subsidised travel.

The current subsidy is said by Cumbria County Council to be £1,200 per annum per student, so withdrawal of the subsidy means this cost will pass to parents/carers from September 2014.

Subsequent to the decision to remove the subsidy, Cumbria County Council have suggested schools take responsibility for administering the "post 16 spare seats" scheme on scheduled school routes. Where available these "spare seats" will be charged at £360 per annum rather than the unsubsidised rate of £1,200 per annum.

The details of the work to be undertaken by schools in administering the "post 16 spare seats" scheme are still unclear; however as a starting point we have been liaising with our transport providers to establish an approximate number of spare seats for Year 12 students on each of our routes.

To help us establish the demand for "spare seats" for Year 12 for September 2014, please could you indicate on the reply slip the route you would like a "spare seat(s)" for September 2014 at the rate of £360 per annum. At this stage you are "expressing an interest" rather than committing to a "spare seat" but in gathering this information now, we hope to "smooth" some of the administrative issues that may arise over the next few months.

Attached to this letter I am including information about Cumbria County Council's "Student Support Fund for Low Income Families." **Please note applications for this fund should be made directly to Cumbria County Council.**

As a school we will do everything we can to support students and their families through this process of change. Some sixth form students will be eligible to apply for the sixth form bursary in order to help with transport costs, please see the Sixth Form Bursary Policy on the school website for further information. We also hope to establish a small emergency "hardship fund" to prevent any students being unable to continue with their post 16 education due to transport costs.

If you have any questions regarding post-16 transport for September 2014, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Could I request you return the reply slip by Wednesday 21 May 2014. Nil returns would also be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Houston
Headteacher
Enc

Operator	Route
Grand Prix	Stainmore
Grand Prix	Brough
Grand Prix(link)	Flitholme to Brough
Grand Prix(link)	Blackmoor to Brough
Lakeland	Gaisgill/Ravenstonedale
Woofs(link)	Link to Ravenstonedale
Lakeland	Mallerstang/Hawes
Lakeland	Smardale/Waitby
Lakeland	Soulby
Lakeland	Tebay/Orton
Lakeland	Warcop
Lakeland	Wharton
Keith Hall	Bretherdale link to Orton



Expression of Interest – “Spare Seat Scheme”

Please return to school (FAO Mrs R Houston) by Wednesday 21 May 2014

Name of Student: _____

Form: _____

I would like to express an interest in a “spare seat” on the _____
Route(s) for September 2014.

Please enter name of route(s)

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer

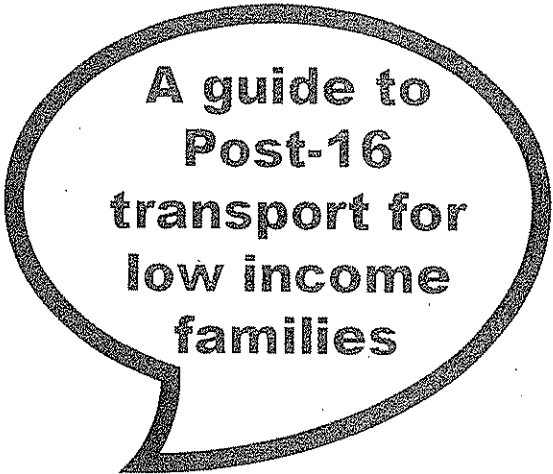
Date: _____

Student Support Fund for Low Income Families

- The Student Support Fund may be available to provide free transport, from the nearest pickup point, for Post-16 students under the age of 19 on 1st September 2014. Students must be attending either the 6th form in their designated catchment school or their nearest college offering the vocational area they wish to study. The distance from home to the school or college attended must exceed the statutory walking distance of three miles.
- To qualify for the Student Support Fund, parent/carers must provide evidence that they are in receipt of one of the following:-
 - Income Support
 - Income based jobseekers allowance
 - An income related employment and support allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
 - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Please Note: If you are in receipt of Working Tax Credit you will not be eligible for free transport.

- Should the family income increase above the threshold limit for low income families, the free transport will continue up to the end of the academic year in June/July.
- Applicants should complete a Student Support Fund application form (available to download from the Cumbria County Council website from 31 May 2014) to apply for 'low income' transport. Alternatively applicants can contact the Integrated Transport Team to request an application form



**A guide to
Post-16
transport for
low income
families**



integrated.transport@cumbria.gov.uk



0333 240 6965

Or visit cumbria.gov.uk/schooltransport where you can also see our FAQ's



**Here to
help**