

12th May 2022

RE: Translink Planned Industrial Action: Tuesday 17th May to Monday 23rd May 2022 (Inclusive)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have been notified by the Education Authority that Translink bus drivers who are members of the GMB and Unite trade unions have voted to take industrial action in relation to 2021 pay.

This will result in all Translink bus services being withdrawn from Tuesday 17th May to Monday 23rd May 2022 inclusive. This strike action will have a significant impact on all school transport services. Schools have been asked to advise parents of the potential disruption ***and the need to put in place alternative arrangements on these dates where appropriate.***

The following advice applies during the planned period of Translink industrial action:

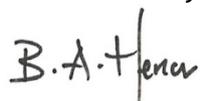
- Translink bus services including Ulsterbus, Metro, Goldliner and Glider will be non-operational during the planned period of industrial action.
- Pupils who use any Translink bus service for any element of their journey are likely to be impacted and parents are advised to make other transport arrangements for these dates.
- Pupils who connect with a Translink bus service via an Education Authority (EA) yellow bus should not commence their journey on the EA bus, even if it is running. EA cannot guarantee pupils would be able to complete their journey, so parents should make alternative arrangements for the whole of their child's journey to and from school.

The strike action is planned over a period when there are significant numbers of our pupils sitting GCSE and A Level examinations. Parents are advised to ensure they have transport arrangements in place for the days when their child is scheduled to sit an examination. To help support parents, the school will be **open to examination students from 8.00am daily and they can remain in school after examinations for silent study until the end of the school day if no other means of transport is available.**

It is my understanding that Translink continues to engage with Trade Unions to try and avert this action and have specifically requested exemptions for home to school transport. However, to date these have not been granted. I will communicate with parents with any updated information.

If you have any concerns or need clarification on any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



B A Heron

Principal
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