

Date as postmark

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am now in a position to be able to provide you with information from Go North East, which explains how the bus travel to St Bede's will operate from September 2020, for all years groups, including Sixth Form.

We have been in lengthy negotiations with Go North East to ensure that our families receive the best possible home to school transport service. The Governing Body has again subsidised the overall cost to ensure that ticket prices are kept as low as possible; mindful that Go North East has held its ticket price for two years.

For 2020/2021, Go North East has again provided a bespoke reduced price scholars' ticket. New, more flexible, options will be available for parents as shown below.

Ticket Type	Price	Where To Buy
St Bede's Bus Single Fare	£2	On the bus
18 & Under Day Ticket	£4	On the bus or on the app
St Bede's Bus 7 Day Ticket	£12.65	On the app
18 & Under 7 Day Ticket	£17	On the bus or the app
St Bede's Bus 28 Day Ticket	£50	On the app
18 & Under 28 Day Ticket	£68	On the app or the key

This replaces the current monthly payment scheme, allowing you to simply pay for the travel you need, whether buying tickets for a day, a week or a month at a time. As currently, St Bede's Bus Tickets will offer students travel on the Go North East network to and from St Bede's Lanchester up to 1800 during term times, including on the dedicated St Bede's school buses into the school grounds. For customers who travel on Go North East services on evenings, weekends and school holidays, a range of tickets for young people is also available offering unlimited travel on all services including on St Bede's School Buses.

The tickets will also be available to buy on the Go North East app which, as well as providing a safe and secure platform for tickets, also offers journey planning and the ability to track all services, including school buses, in real time.

An information leaflet outlining the offer will be available to view on our website and that of Go North East at www.gonortheast.co.uk/stbedes.

We anticipated that ticket prices would increase this year and we have had lengthy discussions with Go North East in order to negotiate the best possible deal for you. I can assure you that this ticket price is again heavily discounted and the slight price rise has been made to cover the increase in running costs incurred by the bus company.

In addition, the Governing Body has agreed to allocate additional funding to provide subsidies to families, regardless of income, who have children attending St Bede's in **main school**.

From September 2020, we will provide the following subsidies for families, who have more than one child attending St Bede's, in the Main School. Please refer to our website for more information.

- For families with two children who will need to pay for transport, the youngest child will pay £1.50 per day.
- For families with three children who will need to pay for transport, the youngest child will pay £1.00 per day and the middle child will pay £1.50 per day.
- For families with four children who will need to pay for transport, the youngest child will travel for free, the next child will travel for £1.00 per day; the older child will travel for £1.50 per day.

May I also remind parents of a national policy that provides extended rights to pupils eligible for free school meals or whose parents receive their maximum level of Working Tax Credit. The policy will provide free transport to our school if all the qualifying criteria are met. If you feel that you will be entitled to this free transport as a result of this national policy please contact the Local Authority Admissions Team on 03000 265896.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Go North East. The company has been very responsive to our collective needs and has again worked in partnership with the school to make the travel offer as affordable as possible to you. The introduction of the app is, in my opinion, a great development and the new payment plan will provide you with a more flexible way to pay for the ticket.

I will maintain our dialogue with Go North East in order to provide our school community with the best possible annual transport deal. This will continue to be a priority for the school and for me personally.

Yours sincerely,

Neville Harrison
Headteacher