

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



14th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Waterhouses Bus Route from September 2025

Thank you for your support and cooperation over the last few years as we have increased and adapted our school transport service for your child. Mrs Bramwell and the team do an amazing job to plan and deliver transport solutions which serve the needs of as many students as possible.

However, due to increasing costs in all areas of school budgets and no increase in government education funding, going forward, we are facing financial difficulties like never before. I want to be as honest as I can be about what we are able to do. We also appreciate that household finances are being stretched more than they have ever been and so we want to continue to subsidise costs to support families, but we are unable to continue as we are.

Currently, we subsidise 3 routes to QEGS from; Uttoxeter, Waterhouses and Stanton. This was initially at a cost of £20k to the school, this has now risen to £82k and this deficit is preventing our ability to sustainably staff the school with enough teachers for next year.

Our commitment to students who attended Waterhouses Primary School remains in place. Sustaining and increasing student numbers at Waterhouses is in our interests as well as theirs. As a QEGS catchment school, transport for students who attended Waterhouses Primary School will remain free of charge to students in Years 7 to 11.

For students using the route who did not attend Waterhouses Primary School (Years 7 to 11) and are in Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13), there will now be an annual charge to cover 75% of the route costs. The annual charge will be £850.00 (£4.47 per day based on 190 days). The annual charge will be the same amount for one off payments or instalments so that families paying over time are not disadvantaged further.

For students in receipt of Free School Meals and other students who are Pupil Premium, financial support will be available. Sixth Form students may be eligible for support through the Bursary Scheme.

Clearly the numbers and costs of each route must be viable and so we are asking now for your confirmation of transport plans for next year so that we and you, can plan ahead. Mrs Bramwell will be sending out application forms for a seat on the route before the May half term break, and will confirm timing of the routes before end of July 2025.

Please confirm that you will/will not be using the Waterhouses QEGS transport in 2025-26 and paying any associated costs if applicable, via the form below by end of Tuesday 20th May 2025: <https://forms.office.com/e/k6VXtGZwve>

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Bramwell via bramwell@qegs.email.

Yours faithfully

Scott Garrity
Headteacher