

6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers in Mancot/Sandycroft Areas

I am sure that you will be aware of the issues surrounding the 7X P&O Bus that travelled from Mancot to Hawarden High School and beyond. This service was terminated unexpectedly which resulted in students not being picked up from their bus stop and from school.

I was unaware that this bus route was a commercial service incorrectly assuming it was a public service bus which would normally have been replaced by another operator in these circumstances. Had I known this and been made aware of the withdrawal of the service I would, of course, have contacted parents prior to the summer break. Please accept my apologies for this.

The school currently has no involvement in the allocation of services for transport. This is managed by the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) of Flintshire County Council. Their eligibility criteria for free bus travel is explained in detail on the council's website:

(<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport-Application.aspx>), however it should be noted that any parents who do not meet this criteria are not entitled to have their children travel on the route and there is no option to pay. If you do believe that you meet the eligibility criteria please apply for a bus pass using the above website link. I have been assured by Flintshire County Council that the applications for those eligible for travel will be processed as soon as possible.

I am sorry for the inconvenience this issue has caused and hope that affected parents are able to make suitable alternative arrangements. If in the meantime, I receive a further update I shall contact you immediately.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen  
Headteacher