

8th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on the 432 Bus Service

Following a meeting between representatives from the Management of the South Gloucestershire Bus Company, three parents whose children use the 432, Mr Woodville from Wellsway School and myself, I am delighted to inform you that the company have agreed to continue to run the 432 Bus Route serving Longwell Green, North Common, Oldland Common and Willsbridge to and from Wellsway School and IKB Academy.

All parties worked together in partnership to save the service from the planned termination. A testament to all parties. I would particularly like to thank the Bus Company for giving our students and your children this opportunity, as well as to thank all the very proactive and supportive parents involved in bringing about this resolution.

Both schools have agreed to devise a joint Code of Conduct. We will be working as quickly as possible to share this Code of Conduct with you which will need to be signed by parents/carers and students who wish to use the 432 bus service, even if for occasional use. On receipt the schools will issue a permit which identifies the student with a parental contact number. They will be required to show this permit when boarding the bus. Should there be any anti-social behaviour the permit will be revoked, so that the schools can take appropriate action.

If students witness anti-social behaviour on the bus, or feel intimidated by the behaviour of other students using the bus in anyway, then they should raise their concern through the normal channels within the respective school as they would with any other unfortunate experience of poor behaviour in school. We shall be reinforcing messages of respect and appropriate behaviour to ensure safe travel on the bus in assemblies shortly.

The 432 bus will have a regular driver, Javier. He wants to drive his bus without any risk to the students' safety as he really cares about the students getting to and from school safely. A simple and friendly hello on boarding, and a thank you as the students alight would go a huge way in building a positive relationship between the students and the driver. All parties agreed that we must look forward.

The threat of termination remains very real. I cannot stress enough that if further criminal damage occurs then the continuation of the service may be lost for good. Whilst this historic damage is most likely the act of an individual student and your child may not be involved, I urge you to make your children aware that egging on others, laughing along with anti-social behaviour or provoking others to act can encourage and even incite such unacceptable behaviour. If there is a collective response from students against anti-social behaviour, confirming that these acts are not funny or acceptable, then those committing them will be less likely to act in this way.

I thank you all for your cooperation and continued support in reinforcing this message at home.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Gibbs', written in a cursive style.

Mrs D Gibbs
Principal