

Dear Parents

After considerable consultation and planning between Abingdon, St Helen's and The Manor, we are pleased to confirm that from September 2009 we will be operating a joint bus service. To match the different length of the day at each School the arrangements will be as follows:

- a) In the morning, a single network of combined routes will bring both boys and girls to the Schools. This will provide greater coverage of routes and a large number of available stops while also reducing journey times from some of the furthest places. Arrival times will be co-ordinated for all Schools.
- b) In the afternoon, to accommodate the different finishing times, there will be two separate departures. The first will be from St Helen's at 4:20 p.m., and the second from Abingdon School at 5:20 p.m. The number of routes and stops will be broadly similar to those that are operating now and all boys will be expected to use the later service. There will be the possibility for girls to take unallocated seats on the later departure and we hope to develop this option in the future.

For ease of control and convenience, the arrangements will be co-ordinated from a single point and Abingdon School has agreed to provide this role. One operator, Tappins Coaches, will provide all buses. Passengers will be supervised by Prefects from both Abingdon and St Helens who will be given joint training.

Some special arrangements will be needed for times when only one School is open, such as Saturdays and unaligned holidays. The final details are being prepared, including stops and charges on each route, and these will be sent to you in time to book places for September.

This arrangement is a significant development in co-operation between Schools and the more comprehensive travel service has the potential to facilitate further opportunities. We hope that it will be well supported and popular, especially for families with children at the different Schools.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of
Mr M. Turner, Miss R. Edbrooke, Mr P. Heyworth