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Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,
engage and promote success

4th February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Many thanks to those that attended the information evening on Wednesday 16th January 2019 regarding the changes Leicestershire County Council have made to SEN Transport for 16-19 year olds (school years 12,13,14). In addition, I introduced the exciting proposed move for our post 16 students over to a more modern and self-contained site opposite De Lisle College, Loughborough.

I am writing to provide some more information on these two developments and how they will impact on you as parents/carers, but more importantly, our students.

Post 16 Transport (Current Year 11 and K5)

Transport for K5 students is changing, details of which should have been sent to you by Leicestershire County Council. The Local Authority do not have a statutory right to provide SEN 16-19 year old students with free transport. As a result, students in years 12,13, and 14 will no longer receive transport from August 2019. Instead, parents/carers will need to apply for a Personal Transport Budget (PTB), where funds are directly placed into the parent/carers bank account, based on how far the family home is from school. This money is then to be used as you wish to ensure your child gets to school and back every day. Please use the attached **PTB Ready Reckoner** to calculate how much you are likely to receive. You will no doubt quickly recognise that the amount you will receive will not be enough to provide your child with their own taxi each day. Details of these changes and **FAQ's** can be found attached.

Important Links

PTB Ready Reckoner

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2019/1/30/personal-travel-budget-ready-reckoner.pdf>

PTB Explained

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/transport/personal-transport-budget>

Changes to SEN Transport FAQs -

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2018/11/15/FAQs-SEN-transport-policy-from-sept2019-v2.pdf>

As a parent, you have a number of options open to you. Although this news may be a daunting prospect for you, please be assured that at Maplewell we are working tirelessly to develop our own transport service, providing parents with an additional option. Details of our offer might include any of the following:

- Maplewell transport or Contractor operating on Maplewell's behalf.
- Localised Pick up, not door to door.
- Familiar staff
- Medical needs covered on transport.
- Escort for each bus.



This would not be free of charge but parents could use their Personal Transport Budget (PTB) to access this service. Before finalizing our offer, it is **essential** that you apply for Personal Transport Budget (PTB) as soon as possible through the Leicestershire County Council Website:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/transport/personal-transport-budget>

If you would like assistance or advice, please get in touch with Ann Proctor, our Student Support Worker for Careers and Work Experience on 01509 890237 or annproctor@maplewell.leics.sch.uk

School Expansion

Having introduced to parents/carers the proposed move to Loughborough for our post 16 community, it is important to introduce the proposal to our students. This will give them plenty of time to digest this possible change to their daily routines. I displayed a range of external and internal photographs of the building. A sample timetable that illustrated what each day may look like was also presented. This was warmly received and students were left feeling positive about the proposed move.



If and when the proposed move takes place, we will of course give students, parents, and carers the opportunity to view the new post 16 building. There will be extensive modifications and upgrades made to the building before it is in use.

The expansion was the result of a successful bid to the Local Authority, which will create more opportunities for students with Autism. This is in line with Leicestershire's new strategy of increasing capacity for specialist provision across the county. Moving Post 16 students off site to a more suitable location will provide us with the space necessary to facilitate the gradual increase of MAP (Maplewell Autism Provision) students on the Maplewell Hall site. In return, we would obtain the use of a modern, multi-purpose facility for our post 16 students. This will encompass numerous opportunities to develop independence in and around the local community. Leicestershire County Council representatives have confirmed that they are hoping for this to all take place in time for August 2019. However, they have warned that a Christmas 2019 transfer may be a more realistic target.

It is important to note that if a change of location is confirmed, Leicestershire County Council will calculate the change in mileage of your Personal Transport Budget and adjust accordingly.

We intend to keep you fully informed throughout this time of transition. Please do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions about the information.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hoult
Deputy Head