



15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are getting in touch to provide an important update on the home to school transport arrangements that are in place for Finedon students who attend the Huxlow Academy, and to let you know about some improvements that are being introduced.

### **Changes to the previous travel arrangements**

The previous travel arrangements that were in place expired at the end of July 2025. Under Local Government procurement and contract regulations it was the responsibility of the Council to review these arrangements to ensure that they continue to offer a safe and satisfactory service that represents good value for users.

Where possible, North Northamptonshire Council, in line with Department for Education guidance, seeks to place school students on commercial bus services if the service is an appropriate route for the purposes of home to school transport. The contract arrangements for Huxlow Academy were an historic arrangement that had been inherited from Northamptonshire County Council and as such were due for review.

The Council went to contract for the 120 seats between Huxlow and Finedon in July this year and Stagecoach Midlands were the successful tenderer. We are pleased to say that the availability of the 120 seats can be catered for in the conventional local bus services between Finedon and Huxlow. We are continuing to work with Huxlow Academy to implement the contract which will also include a set of improvements and benefits for students, **and the wider community**, which are set out below.

1. School students receiving passes will be eligible for unlimited travel in Rushden and Wellingborough 7 days a week during term time (see Stagecoach Mega-rider section below)
2. A new journey from Rushden at 07:30 will be introduced to enable everyone to get to Huxlow, Tresham and Kettering on service 50
3. A new evening service on service 50 enabling travel up to 23:00 between Rushden and Kettering
4. An increase in the number of journeys between Rushden and Kettering by five journeys a day
5. An increase in the number of journeys of Service 48 on Sundays
6. A daily bus between the Addingtons and Kettering

As well as the benefits outlined above, the new arrangements will make better use of the local bus network meaning there are also benefits for social inclusion, carbon reduction and financial sustainability.



## **Communications**

We are aware that we have not effectively communicated these changes, both to you as parents and carers as well as to the school directly.

Any information that the school has issued was sent by them in good faith and any mis-communication about the new arrangements is **not** their fault.

We apologise for any confusion that may have been caused during these changes and will seek to learn from this to ensure that any future communications are timely and accurate.

## **Stagecoach Mega-rider bus passes**

Previously, students would be issued with a dedicated bus pass for the school bus. This would only allow them to catch the specific bus to Huxlow Academy and could not be used on any other service.

We are excited to say that we are now issuing Stagecoach Wellingborough Mega-Rider bus passes for the students to use. These are digital passes that are held via the Stagecoach mobile application.

NNC are responsible for issuing these passes – they cannot be issued or administered by the school. They are downloaded to the students mobile phones by using a code that will be sent to the parent's email address. Full instructions on how to download the app and access the pass will be sent with the code.

The Mega-rider bus pass can be used on any Stagecoach service, within the designated zone, 7 days a week. This includes such places as Rushden Lakes and so we hope will be of greater benefit to the students.

The complete zoned area for the passes can be found here: [Stagecoach Wellingborough MegaRider](#)

Bus pass codes have already been issued to many parents and we aim to have completed this process in the next week. With effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Stagecoach will require all students from Finedon to produce a valid bus pass.

If you have questions relating to the issuing of the bus pass or need any assistance please email:

[School Transport at NNC](#)



### **Bus pick ups**

We have agreed with Stagecoach that the new services will enter the school grounds to collect the students at the end of the school day. This will maintain their safety and allow the school staff to supervise this process efficiently. This arrangement will commence from 22<sup>nd</sup> September when the amended timetables take effect.

### **A6 walking route between Finedon and Irthlingborough**

We are aware that some parents may have been informed that it is our intention to designate the A6 (between Finedon and the Huxlow Academy) a safe walking route.

**Please be assured that this is NOT the case.**

Whilst the distance between the two is within the legal walking distance for children of secondary school age, there are a number of safety issues that preclude this route from being used. These issues would require a significant amount of infrastructure changes and financial commitment which are presently not in any local plan.

Any child in school years 7 to 11, who lives in Finedon and is allocated a place at the Huxlow Academy, will be entitled to free travel assistance under current eligibility criteria.

### **Next steps**

We are actively working with Stagecoach and the school to refine the transport services to make them as safe and efficient as possible. We will keep the school and parents updated as soon as any future enhancements have been agreed and are to be implemented.

We'd like to thank everyone – school, parents and students – for their patience and understanding and we look forward to working with Stagecoach to bring benefits to all who use their services.

***North Northamptonshire Council  
Home to School Transport Team***