

October 2019

Dear parents and carers

Further to my letter in September and after careful consideration of the feedback received, I am writing to update you on the situation as regards bus times.

Alongside Warrington's Own Buses, we have taken the decision to move the times of several of the buses either five or ten minutes earlier, as per the table below. A full timetable is attached at the bottom of this letter and is also available on the website [here](#). **These new times will come into operation from immediately after the half-term holiday: i.e. from Monday 4th November.**

Service	Change to all pick up times
39	10 minutes earlier
40	10 minutes earlier
40B	10 minutes earlier
41	5 minutes earlier
41A	10 minutes earlier
42	No change
42A	10 minutes earlier

The effect of these changes is that all services will now be scheduled to arrive at school for 8.05am. This means that there will be a little more margin for error when buses are delayed by a few minutes. As I suggested in my original letter, to be fair to the bus company it is unrealistic to expect all buses to run precisely on time every day given the unpredictable nature of traffic at this time in the morning.

We are working hard at the moment to improve the quality of tutor time and it is very difficult to do this when groups of students are even a few minutes late. It is disruptive for the teacher and the rest of the class and means important notices can be missed. Likewise, having groups of students come into assemblies late is not conducive to the calm, orderly start to the day for which we aim.

The second major advantage of moving the times a little earlier is that it will help to avoid congestion at the front of school. At the moment, even when buses are on time, they often get stuck behind cars of parents dropping children off at the same time and, as well as contributing to making buses late, this does causes health and safety issues at times. These changes should also make life a little easier for those parents who do drop off children by car.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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We should point out that this change will not solve all issues relating to buses – and nor is it intended to. It will not help, for example, in those cases where a bus breaks down or where there are significant delays to traffic such as a motorway closure or problems with the swing bridge from Warrington. It will, however, vastly increase the chances that all students can be in school in time for the very start of the school day.

For those who are interested, I have summarised the details of the feedback received on the following page, along with brief responses.

Thank you, as ever for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwyn Williams', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gwyn Williams
Headteacher

Summary of feedback from parents

- In response to my request for feedback from parents concerned about the possibility of moving bus times earlier, 24 parents contacted us. Firstly, we'd like to thank those who responded for the manner in which they did so. Almost all raised their points in a measured, polite and constructive way and we appreciated this.
- Of the 24 respondents, 14 said explicitly that they did not think times should be moved. Of these, 3 related to the No. 42 service that is already scheduled to arrive at 08.05 and which we are not proposing to change. These numbers should be set in the context of approximately 400 students using buses most days.
- The remainder of responses were either supportive of the change or were simply offering suggestions that might help.

The points raised by those objecting can be summarised as follows (any point raised more than once is covered):

Point raised	Response
This change will not solve other problems – e.g. bus breakdowns or allegations of over-crowding or drivers not stopping at certain stops.	We are not claiming it will solve any other issues – that was never the intention here. However, we do talk regularly to the bus company about other issues and do what we can. Parents are encouraged to contact the company directly if they have significant concerns of their own.
Buses don't stick to timetables, which is the real problem	We assume this is because of traffic issues: once a bus is delayed earlier in the journey, it cannot reasonably be expected to be on time for subsequent stops. The bus company assure us that buses do leave the depots on time – and have provided us with some evidence via their own tracker systems to support this. We have pressed them to make sure this does happen consistently.
Car parking / drops offs at the front of the school are a bigger issue in terms of causing delays. Can't the school do more here?	We wish we could! We have tried various different solutions over the years (including most of the more specific suggestions), but there is no obvious solution. Closing the site to cars or placing more restrictions on them would simply cause a logjam on Oughtrington Lane and most likely make things more dangerous. The reality is that almost all secondary schools face traffic problems as a result of congestion at the beginning and end of the school day.
Other schools / colleges use different providers and they get a better service	We can't comment on the quality of service elsewhere, though it might be worth pointing out that very few schools who need several or more buses don't have issues fairly regularly. What we can say is that the examples given to us in this case cost a lot more – whether that cost is borne directly by families or via significant subsidy by the schools/colleges themselves.
The issue could be solved by better traffic management elsewhere in Warrington – e.g. badly parked cars or temporary traffic lights	Unfortunately, this is entirely outside of our control!

EFFECTIVE FROM 4TH NOVEMBER

GRAPPENHALL - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	39
STRETTON - GRAPPENHALL - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	40
MARTINSCROFT - HOLLINS GREEN- LATCHFORD LOCKS - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	40B
WALTON - GRAPPENHALL - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	41
STANTON ROAD - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	41A
GRAPPENHALL HEYS - APPLETON THORN - GRAPPENHALL - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	42
WARRINGTON - KNUTSFORD ROAD - LYMM, OUGHTRINGTON LANE	42A
MONDAY TO FRIDAY	

Service Number	39	40	40	40B	41	41	41A	42	42A
	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch
Warrington, Interchange									0726
Warrington, Bridge Street									0728
Knutsford Road, Victoria Park									0733
Walton, Stag Inn					0736				
Whitefield Rd, Carlingford Rd					0737				
Stretton, Cat & Lion		0730							
London Bridge		0735							
Stockton Heath, Victoria Sq		0737							
Grappenhall Road, Sandy Lane		0738			0740	0740			
Ackers Road, Hilltop Road		0741							
Chester Road, Euclid Avenue					0746	0746			
Latchford, Kingsway South									0736
KNUTSFORD ROAD, Pilling Gardens	0744	0742	0741						0741
Knutsford Road, Bradshaw Lane	0746	0744	0743						0744
Lumb Brook Rd, Grappenhall Lodge								0731	
Grappenhall Heys, Witherwin Ave								0732	
Appleton Thorn, Thorn Inn								0736	
Grappenhall, Cartridge Lane								0741	
Grappenhall, East View					0747	0747			
Martinscroft, Woolston Gr Av				0703					
Hollins Green, Glazebrook Ln				0712					
Hollins Green, Black Swan				0714					
Martinscroft, Woolston Gr Av				0724					
Bennett Avenue				0733					
Thelwall N Rd, Latchford Locks		0745	0745	0746					0745
Thelwall, Stanton Road							0746		
Thelwall, Pickering Arms		0750	0750	0751					
Thelwall, Stanton Road									0748
Stockport Road, Bell Lane	0750				0750	0750			0750
Thelwall, Deans Lane	0751				0751	0751			0751
Cliff Lane, Stoneleigh Garden								0745	
Thelwall, Weaste Lane								0747	
Lymm, Church	0757	0757	0757	0757	0757	0757		0753	0757
Lymm High Sch, Oughtrington Ln	0805	0805	0805	0805	0805	0805	0805	0805	0805

EFFECTIVE FROM 4TH NOVEMBER

Service Number	39	39A	40	40B	40A	41	41A	41B	42
	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch	Sch
Lymm High Sch, Oughtrington Ln	1520	1515	1520	1520	1520	1520	1515	1530	1530
Lymm, Church									1535
Thelwall, Deans Lane	1530	1525							
Stockport Road, Bell Lane	1531	1526							
Thelwall, Pickering Arms			1532	1532	1532				
Thelwall, Stanton Road						1527			
Thelwall N Rd, Latchford Locks			1536	1536	1536				
Thelwall, Weaste Lane									1539
Cliff Lane, Stoneleigh Garden									1541
Grappenhall Heys, Witherwin Ave									1551
Grappenhall, Cartridge Lane									1559
Knutsford Road, Bradshaw Lane	1534	1529	1537	1537	1537				
Knutsford Road, Pilling Gardens	1536	1531	1539	1539	1539				
Latchford, Kwik Save	1538								
Martinscroft, Woolston Gr Av				1549					
Hollins Green, Black Swan				1557					
Hollins Green, Glazebrook Ln				1558					
Grappenhall, East View						1534			
Grappenhall, East View								1544	
Chester Road, Euclid Avenue						1535		1545	
Ackers Road, Hilltop Road			1540						
Grappenhall Road, Sandy Lane			1543			1540		1550	
Stockton Heath, Victoria Sq			1544						
London Bridge			1545						
Stretton, Cat & Lion			1550						
Whitefield Rd, Carlingford Rd						1543		1553	
Walton, Stag Inn						1544		1554	
Knutsford Road, Victoria Park	1541								
Warrington, Academy Way	1544								
Warrington, Interchange	1546								

Sch - Schooldays Only