



# Christ Church Cathedral School

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents,

I mentioned to you that I would let you know about our plans for minibus routes for next year. We are acutely aware that many of you will be concerned about the impact of the new bus gates which are being rolled out in central Oxford from November 2024.

Local Oxford residents will, of course, be able to pass through the gates with their cars on 100 days in one year, provided that they obtain a special traffic permit. The map showing the areas in and close to Oxford where residents will be eligible to apply for a permit can be found here:

<https://oxfordshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=13499ad796114714b4c419e83c5a495a>. (The eligible area is shaded in sage green).

For those living outside the traffic permit area, no such arrangement applies.

It is also worth mentioning that the School will be approachable by anyone, resident in Oxford or not, from the Abingdon Road as it is at the moment. The issue will be for those coming from Botley Road and from North Oxford, though access is of course still available along the Abingdon Road, via the Ring Road.

Nonetheless, to help those whose lives have become more difficult, we are extending our existing minibus run to North Oxford and we are introducing a second bus route starting and finishing in Witney. We are happy to make small adjustments to both of these routes to cater for specific requirements. From September 2024, therefore, we will have two bus runs as follows:

1.) North Oxford and Headington:

Our present Minibus route will be extended. The Bus will leave the School and will travel up the Woodstock Road via the railway station and St Giles to Davenant Road. It will then return to Summertown and then turn east along the Marston Ferry Road. It will pass the John Radcliffe Hospital and arrive at Headington Town centre. It will then return to school via St Clements and the High Street.

2.) Witney, Eynsham, Cumnor and Botley Road

Our second completely new route will start in the centre of Witney and travel to school via Eynsham, across the toll Bridge, through to Cumnor and then down Cumnor Hill and along Botley Road.

In both cases, the drivers will be staff employed by the School. The buses will also have another member of staff on board to ensure that the pupils are safe and that personal communication with parents is possible. The buses will use an app which will allow you to chart the progress of the bus. Because of the presence of a second member of staff, we will still be able to take pupils from Nursery and Pre-Prep, if parents are happy for us to do so. The buses will depart the school at 4.20 at the end of the day. Booster seats are available.

We are happy to consider making minor adjustments to these routes if there are parents who live close by and for whom another pick up / drop off point would be helpful. Please do let us have your specific suggestions so that we can give them due consideration.

We would be very keen to hear from you if you would be interested in either of these routes and about where you would ideally like to be picked up from. We can then present the final routes once responses have been analysed.

We are also interested to hear from people for whom another route would be helpful. If we have enough regular takers, we would be more than happy to consider putting on other routes.

All very best wishes,

Richard Murray