

10 September 2024

Dear Parents

A few notes for your consideration

Buses

I need to stress that as a school, Knole Academy has no control over the buses that service the school site.

We would like the buses that are dedicated to Knole Academy, to arrive on time, leave promptly and have plenty of space for our students. What we have, are bus services that are run by private companies, understandably to make a profit. They look to create buses that run at maximum capacity, so they choose to cut/combine services and share services with other schools to maximise the numbers on board.

At the start of the academic year there are normally issues, as the bus companies do not know how many students will be utilising each service. Some students use the service without tickets until the requirement for bus passes becomes mandatory on the 12 September; this is due to KCC not being able to distribute bus passes before this date.

On Friday 6 September and again on Monday this week, we saw students wanting to board the S32 who were left behind because the service was full. On Friday we managed to get Go Coach to supply an extra eight-seater coach and on Monday, we provided a school minibus and driver to take many of these students back home to Orpington. I have written a letter of complaint to Go Coach and I would encourage affected parents to do likewise. Equally, Kent County Council commission routes in some cases and supplement some services, so correspondence to them can be effective.

I would also encourage parents to look at the schedules on the GO Coach website. The S3 and the S34 serve similar areas to the S32, and I would encourage anyone who could take either of these alternate services to utilise them in the short term as they do not seem to be suffering from the same capacity issues.

The Go Coach website is <https://www.go-coach.co.uk/>

Advance notice

The school is holding its Open Day on Saturday 21 September for prospective new students. We have close to 3000 people booked in on this day. In preparation for this event, the school is closing at 1.20pm on Friday 20 September; I will confirm the amended bus services nearer the time. A reminder that Monday 23 September is a staff INSET day and pupils will not be in attendance.



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Thank you

I would just like to thank parents and students for the efforts they have made at the start of the academic year, our attendance is up on last year and the students have been a credit to the school and their families. Long may it continue.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Collins", written in a cursive style.

David Collins