



From: the Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL, Helen Keevil

5 October 2023

Dear parents

### **Student Conduct on the Joint Bus Service**

I write to introduce myself as the Deputy Head Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead. Part of my role alongside keeping our students safe covers behaviour, both in and out of school, including conduct on the Joint Bus Service.

During the first half of Michaelmas Term the majority of bus journeys (despite the traffic) have been smooth and calm, however there have been some incidents which have led to pastoral interventions and sanctions. In early September I met with bus monitors from every route to ensure we continue to meet the high expectations we're keen to uphold on bus journeys as part of the Abingdon experience. In light of the terribly sad story in the press recently where a young girl lost her life, I thought it an apposite moment to contact you all. [This clip](#) with a survivor will give you food for thought.

Having listened to ideas from the bus monitors when we met, we agreed on the following points:

- Be vigilant and check seatbelt use
- Keep close eye on inappropriate phone use
- Challenge poor language & disrespectful behaviour
- Remember pleases & thank yous to drivers
- Think of the impact your behaviour has on others
- Be a force for good, encourage others to do the same
- Be aware that when we're tired, extra care is needed

Thank you in anticipation for discussing these ideas as a family at home. I appreciate your help and support. It's imperative that we adhere to these high expectations on every journey, starting with **wearing seatbelts for the safety of all pupils**.

In the course of that conversation could you please also remind your children that if they cannot adhere to the requisite standards of behaviour, then they will receive a Friday Detention. School rules apply at School and obviously on travel to School. If students continue to misbehave, we reserve the right to ban them from the buses for a period of time, probably 3 to 5 days in the first instance. The level of the sanction will obviously be dependent on the severity of the offending behaviour.

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I will reiterate this message with Tom Peeke at Vectare so we are all collectively responsible for the safety and wellbeing of our Abingdon students.

I look forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

Best wishes

Helen Keevil