



Information for parents

Transport Arrangements for August 2020.

The arrangements for school transport via bus or coach are still being worked on, because of the recent guidance change, the school alongside the operators who support us need time to process and apply the guidance. The following update provides the information we have at this time.

Covid Capacities

All closed contract coaches can operate at 100% capacity. This will apply to the coaches contracted by the school from Hunters Executive Coaches (here after referred to as Hunters), covering the following routes:

- Aberdour
- *Cupar – New trial route*
- Dunblane (Prep bus)
- Dunfermline x 2
- Glenrothes
- Linlithgow
- Perth

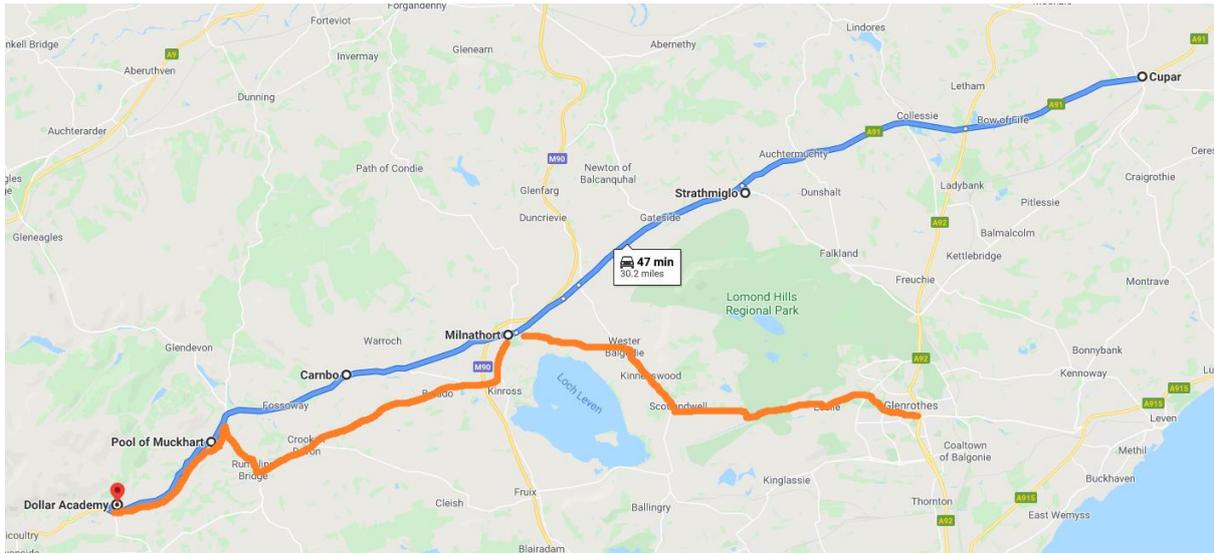
Firstbus

Public routes supplied by Firstbus have the potential to provide 100% capacity (for pupils only), but this will depend on the demand placed on a route by members of the public. Buses may need to be divided in to two areas: the general public (operating with physical distancing and 25% capacity) and Dollar pupils. The management team at Firstbus have been liaising with the school and they are currently looking at options for the 324, 325, 325 and 391 routes that connect to Dollar. Routes to Dollar will also need to comply with the agreed solution between Firstbus and Stirling Council for the transportation of pupils on public services.

Stagecoach 23 Service

During lockdown Stagecoach suspended the 23 Service and they are now looking to withdraw it completely. There has been an online public consultation, which the Rector has been involved with, and he has written to our local MP, Keith Brown, in support of this service.

For the start of term the school has agreed a trial service to run between Dollar and Cupar, following a slightly different route to include Carnbo, as illustrated below: Cupar route in Blue, Glenrothes in Orange.



Covid19 Safety

- We ask that all pupils wear a mask while waiting at a bus stop and on the bus / coach. The guidance does say that all pupils 11+ must wear a mask, but if younger pupils are happy to do so we would encourage this.
- Please use sanitiser before you board a bus or coach.
- Please be aware that windows will be open on buses and must not be closed
- Firstbus have confirmed that all surfaces on their busses have been treated with an antiviral coating which lasts for 28 days and that their buses are cleaned regularly.
- Hunters Coaches have said they will clean their coaches between contracts. They have “Fogging” machines for this purpose.
- On Hunters Coaches it is one seat per pupil, and pupils must wear seatbelts. There is no standing on coaches. Firstbus busses will have their seats marked out for physical distancing. However, pupils, within their allocated areas, do not need to follow this guidance. If there are adults on the bus then pupils must leave an empty row of seats between the adult and themselves.

For further advice on safety issues when using a bus or coach the [Coronavirus - COVID19: Service information](#) is very good and kept up to date.

Arrival and departure

When pupils arrive at Dollar Academy by bus they must enter the grounds via the Heyworth Gate and then make their way to a temperature checking tent.

In the afternoon, waiting areas will be marked out on the grass next to the Heyworth and Main gates. This will allow pupils to wait in “Bus” groups until their bus arrives, instead of being crowded on the pavement outside the dining hall. Pupils will need to watch out for their bus, they **will not** be called by the drivers.

Tickets and Fares

Please be aware that the price of travel does have an annual increase and that there will be increases on all routes.

Firstbus

Firstbus have informed the School that the price for bus passes will change at the end of the Autumn Term. Please note that the "Child" ticket rate will operate this term, but from January, there will be no "child" rate. Pupils will need to pay the "Student" rate starting in the Spring Term. The Firstbus price structure is below:

Weekly bus pass

	Adult	Child	Student
324 (3-5 zone)	£25.80	£12.90	£23.20
325 (3-5 zone)			
326 (3-5 zone)			
391 (2 zone)	£24.70	£12.40	£22.20

Any questions about this service please contact Firstbus directly on 0345 646 0707 or if you prefer, you can fill out the [contact form](#) here instead.

School Contracted Coaches

Many of the coach services contracted by the school are near capacity. To gauge the demand for these services please complete the Capacity Survey on the link below before Wednesday 12/8/20.

If you plan to use one of the school's coach services, it is vital that this form is completed. Your assistance here, in completing this form by Wed 12.8.20, is much appreciated:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xIB1eyt3zE6qOveGlrZezBn35VSTAGFPodelf6eke7IUMFBWRfdGMUdXTDVEOFJFMTgzTzVFSFNKMy4u>

To limit the possibility of virus transfer we will be offering a Termly Travel Pass (which will offer a saving over buying tickets daily). This will be a physical pass that pupils will need to show to the driver when boarding the coach.

We are currently working on a pricing model and a registration system for Travel Passes. This information will be issued next week.

Paper tickets will still be available for pupils who wish to travel for one or two days per week. These tickets will need to be collected from Mrs Simpson in the Reprographics office on the ground floor of the Playfair Building, as per usual.

Please note, pupils will not need a ticket or Travel Pass for the first day of term.

In the next update:

- Clarification on seating capacity for the Firstbus routes
- Pricing structure for termly passes and day tickets on school coaches
- Registration information for Termly Passes