

13 August 2021

Dear Parents,

Home to School Transport Arrangements Session 2021/22

Provision of Transport

Transport to school is facilitated by two suppliers, Firstbus and Hunters Executive Travel. Information about home to school transport can be found on the school website in the "Current Parents" section.

At this time journeys can be purchased as follows:

Firstbus:

Onboard the bus or via their ticket office. Season passes may be bought from the ticket office, please see note on Free Travel in Scotland below.

Hunters Executive Travel:

Journey can be purchased via the RideKura App. Details are outlined below.

COVID restrictions

The guidance from the Scottish Government for home to school transport will allow buses and coaches to operate at near normal capacity. The following guidelines apply on all services to and from Dollar Academy.

- All Pupils, in every age group, must wear a face mask/covering (unless they are exempt) at all times; while boarding, travelling and disembarking from a bus or coach
- The buses and coaches are cleaned and treated with antiviral solutions, but pupils must use hand sanitiser before boarding and after disembarking
- No one is permitted to eat or drink on a bus or coach
- Pupils should sit as far as possible in year group order, Prep and Junior School pupils towards the front, Senior School pupils towards the rear
- Windows must be kept open to ensure ventilation
- **Pupils must not board school or public transport if they, or a member of their household, have symptoms of COVID-19.**

Free Travel in Scotland.

The Scottish Government have confirmed that all residents under the age of 22 will be eligible for free bus travel from 31 January 2022. This will mean those pupils travelling on public bus services (Firstbus) should be eligible for free transport. The exact details on this provision still need to be published by the Scottish Government. [Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme \(transport.gov.scot\)](https://www.transport.gov.scot)

The services provided by Hunters Executive Coaches are a private hire contract providing a dedicated service and as such do not qualify for the free transport under the current proposal by the Scottish Government.

Annual price increase

The routes provided by Hunters Coaches are contracted by the school. To recoup this expenditure, we have to levee a charge. The cost of travelling will increase by approximately 3% this session. The new Zone pricing for a single ticket (1 journey) will be as follows:

Zone 1	£2.20
Zone 1A	£3.10

Zone 2	£4.45
Zone 3	£5.55
Zone 4	£6.70
Prep Bus	£6.05

Route Information

The number of routes to the school remains the same as last session and timetables for individual routes can be found on the school website: <https://www.dollaracademy.org.uk/admissions/travelling-to-dollar-academy/>

Points to Note:

- The routes from South East Fife (D1,D2 and D3) may be near capacity this session. This may cause issues for the afternoon run of the D1 at 15:35. Please make sure to book a seat on the coach using the Ride Kura App if you wish your child to travel at this time. There is capacity in the afternoon for pupils to return home, but this is spread across the 15:35 and 17:15 departures.
- Cupar Route. The timings have been changed and the size of the coach has been reduced to 33 seats. The stop at Carnbo is only available on the morning and 3:35 service.

Booking journeys on Hunters Executive Coaches via the RideKura App

Please book a seat for journeys to and from school using the RideKura App, making sure you book a Morning and an Afternoon / late seat as needed. Please note you will only be charged for the journey made. Please make sure you only book the journeys your child/ren need to use.

Please note:

- Charging for journeys made, means you will not be charged for booking a seat, only for a journey undertaken.
- Please book for the intended journey, there is no need to cancel this booking if your child/ren can no longer use the coach
- Please do not double book seats. Bookings will be audited against journeys taken.
- Pupils using the service must tap **on** and **off** the coach using their wrist band. **It is important that pupils tap off the coach on their homeward journeys.**
- Pupils can only depart the coach at a registered stop.

Information on our Timetables can be found on the school website: "[Travelling to Dollar](#)"

New look RideKura App and Self-help video guides:

Following feedback from Dollar Academy and other users of the App, several changes have been made to improve the end user experience. We hope the App will be easier and more intuitive to use.

There is a comprehensive collection of video help guides and tutorials on the line below. Please note that Parents are referred to as "Observers" in the RideKura system.

<https://ridekura.com/observer-app-guides/>

New users of the RideKura App

On Friday 13th August you will receive a 'Welcome to Kura' email from Kura, the transport management company used at Dollar Academy. It will provide the details of how to create your secure Kura account. Once you have set up your account the Kura App can be downloaded. This can be found in both the Google Play Store and Apple's App Store.

Bookings can be made for the entire school year or on a daily /weekly basis. You will be billed automatically each term for the journeys taken by your child/ren.

For Example: To make a booking for the Autumn term select the first date of term in August 2021 and the last day of the term in December. School holiday/half term dates will be automatically removed. You will receive immediate confirmation, via the app, when your booking request has been successfully completed.

Should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the school office via email at dollaracademy@dollaracademy.org.uk.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hughes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Hughes
Director of IT