



Great Marlow School

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EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Mr K Ford

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mr G Pendlebury

6th October 2023

Travelling to and from Great Marlow School

Dear Parents/Carers

We approach all aspects of our school life through what we refer to as My Personal Best and the six Rs of Respect, Readiness, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Reflection & Responsibility. The travel arrangements to school for our students are no different and we ask you to help us in reinforcing these with your child.

Great Marlow School actively encourage all of our students who live locally to walk or cycle to school. Such travel is hugely beneficial and respectful for our local community, by reducing traffic congestion and in improving the quality of our local environment, and for our students, in encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle. We have invested in improving the facilities for securely locking bikes during the school day and are always looking at how we can continue to improve these facilities.

The main site is very busy from 8:25am to 8:45am and from 2:50pm to 3:10pm. Please help keep our site free from traffic and safe for our students at these times.

We recognise that walking or cycling is not always possible and that some students will be dropped off by car. We ask that parents drop off and collect their children away from the busy junctions and entrances to the school site wherever possible and the confidence to undertake that walk is a demonstration of their resilience.

We are very grateful to the Marlow Youth Centre and their hirer, Marlow After School Club, who kindly allow access to their outside sports court as parking in addition to the gravel area. They ask that we remind drivers not to park close to the front of the building and to respect the need for their clients to safely access the building.

The only cars that are to enter the school site from the Bobmore Road entrance are those to collect students who have additional needs and for wheelchair access. Please contact the school via your child's Form Tutor or Director of Learning, so that we can ensure that we have made adequate provision for your child.

Cars can access the school site via the Redgrave Sports Centre entrance on Wycombe Road **after 3.10 pm**, to collect Students from outside the Sports Centre. This is after the coaches and minibuses for students using the transport service from Bucks County Council, have departed. It is essential that the access road is kept clear to allow these larger vehicles to manoeuvre.

We ask that you help us to respect local businesses and residents by not parking across driveways and/or restricting access to properties. If parents/carers are waiting for students at the end of the day, we ask that they turn off their engine. An idling engine can produce up to twice the emissions of a car that's in motion. The impact of the chemicals being emitted is proven to have a contributing negative effect on air quality. We continue to work with the Sustainable Marlow Project alongside Marlow Town Council and our Student Eco Group to promote a healthier environment.

It is our expectation that all of our students will travel to and from school in a kind, considerate, safe and responsible manner. We value our place at the heart of the local community and we ask all of our students to respect the community as they arrive and leave the school site.

We ask that all students walk sensibly along pavements, taking care to cross roads safely, being aware of other road users and pedestrians. This includes using the designated crossings that have been provided a short walk from the main entrances/exits.

We will regularly remind students about the increased risk to them if wearing headphones, earplugs or using mobile phones whilst walking and we ask that you help us to reinforce this message to your children.

We also ask that all cyclists understand, and abide by the Highway Code, that they only cycle on the road or designated cycle paths and at all times they are mindful of other road users. We also insist that all cyclists wear a cycle helmet when on school site and ask parents to support this. We also expect all bikes to be roadworthy.

The school will continue to help at key arrival/departure times by having staff on duty out at the main entrances to the school site. Please bring to their attention anything that you see that might risk the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. We work very closely with Thames Valley Police on ensuring the safety of everybody and we will pass on any concerns that are shared with us.

Finally, we continue to review our school's travel plan, looking at traffic flow onto the school site and within our local area. We will share with you any updates on local public transportation and bus routes, safe walking schemes and the environmental impact on travel. We would very much value your continued support and engagement within this process.

Kind regards

Mark Ballard
Commercial & Operations Director