

2 September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been provided with a summary of the key changes that have been made by Arriva Buses to take account of the change of location of the Duchess's Community High by School Transport at Northumberland County Council. These changes are effective from the start of the new academic year September 2016.

Below are two tables showing proposed arrival and departure times for the X15 and X18 school journeys which, with one exception, will now serve Willowburn Avenue (close to the new school site) from Sunday 4th September 2016.

Morning Arrivals

Service	Time at School	From
X15	0825	Berwick (0722), Scremerston (0730), Belford (0748), Warendorf (0756)
X15	0838	Morpeth (0800), Felton (0820), Shilbottle (0832)
X18	0838	Bamburgh (0718), Seahouses (0729), Craster (0756), Longhoughton (0810), Lesbury (0820)
X18	0835	Amble (0804), Warkworth (0810), Alnmouth (0821)

Afternoon Departures

Service	Time at School	To
X15	1548	Warendorf (1618), Belford (1626), Scremerston (1644), Berwick (1652)
X15	1620	Shilbottle (1626), Felton (1638), Morpeth (1658)
X18	1548 (on X15 via Alnwick Bus St) *	Lesbury (1614), Longhoughton (1624), Craster (1643), Seahouses (1710), Bamburgh (1721). Connection between X15 and X18 at Alnwick Bus Station is guaranteed
X18	1614 (from St Paul's School) **	Alnmouth (1626), Warkworth (1637), Amble (1644)

* In the **afternoon**, the northbound X15 is timed to run along Willowburn Avenue at 15:48 and Arriva have assured there will be a guaranteed connection with their X18 at Alnwick Bus Station for students travelling to Lesbury and the coastal villages.

**There is a bus stop outside St Paul's RC Primary School which is located opposite the Coach House entrance. The X18 will depart from this stop at 16:14.

The stop to be used by the X15 Northbound for Alnwick is located on the left hand side of Willowburn Avenue as you leave the Duchess's Community High School (on the same side as the Tustain garage).

The stop to be used by the X15 & X18 Southbound from Alnwick is located opposite the stop described above on the same side as Willowburn Leisure Centre and can be accessed by crossing at the Pedestrian crossing on Willowburn Avenue and turning left.

Arriva are in the process of registering these changes to their bus services with the traffic commissioner which they are required to do by law. You will be able to access further timetable information regarding these changes via Arriva's own website <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/north-east/timetables/> or via Traveline <http://jplanner.travelinenortheast.info/> The following link to the Arriva website will give details of student saver tickets that are available to purchase <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/north-east/bus-tickets/studentsne/>

To summarise: All of Arriva's buses deployed on their morning X15 and X18 services will serve the new site, i.e. drop off at Willowburn Avenue. The X15 will still serve Willowburn Avenue on an afternoon, but it is not possible for Arriva to divert the X18 in the afternoon because of the increased journey time (and exposure to traffic congestion), which would adversely affect the punctual operation of a number of their other bus services. As a result of this students travelling south towards Amble will need to walk to St Paul's RC Primary School to catch the bus on an afternoon. For students travelling north towards Craster and Seahouses, Arriva we have arranged a guaranteed connection between the X15 and X18 at Alnwick Bus Station, which will be managed by their own supervisors and inspectors.

I hope this is helpful, should you have any further queries please contact School Transport at NCC on schooltransport@northumberland.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



Maurice Hall
Headteacher