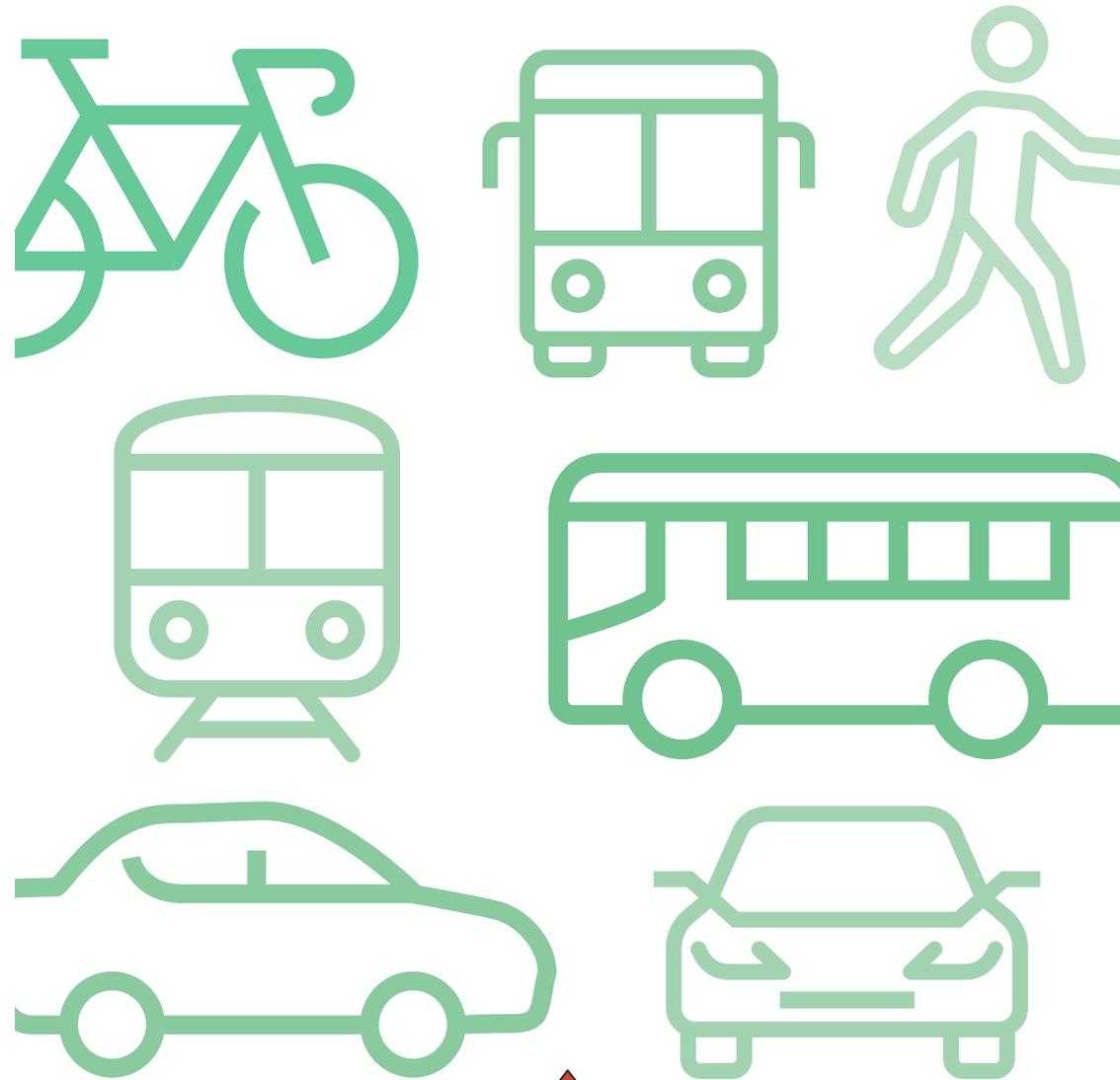


Travelling to Dame Allan's Senior Schools

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North East Independent School of the Year

SUNDAY TIMES PARENT POWER 2023



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
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Dear Parents / Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to look at Dame Allan's Schools' bus services for the 2024-2025 academic year. This is the third version of such a guide, which sets out the wide range of travel options available to the pupils at Dame Allan's Schools.

Building upon our successful partnership, we are pleased to announce the continuation of our collaboration with Vectare, a specialist school transport management company, to manage their school bus services. Vectare are responsible for over 2.5 million independent school journeys per annum. Vectare will continue to manage all aspects of the School's services, and any enquiries can be directed to their team at dameallans@vectare.co.uk.

All bookings for school bus routes are made via our online booking system, which can be viewed at dameallans.vectare.co.uk. This means that you no longer need to complete any paper forms. Payment for the service is made at the time of booking and your child's name will automatically be added to the register. The website also incorporates an interactive journey planner which allows you to enter your postcode and find your closest bus stop.

This guide provides an overview of the bus service network and contains further details including fare and timetable information. All bookings for all routes can be made via the dedicated transport website. The website allows you to book travel 24/7 from anywhere in the world, meaning that if you need to leave early for work one morning or you are running late and you would like your child to travel on a school bus as a one off, you can make a booking right up until the bus is due to depart.

If you need any further assistance, or you would like to discuss travel options from areas not currently served by our network, please contact us via the bookings website and we will be pleased to assist.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish your child a happy and successful academic year ahead.

Yours faithfully,
Vicki McDonald
Bursar

Buses

We provide several different bus services from across the area, alongside the regular public transport timetables, to encourage pupils to take the bus to school. By taking the bus you avoid congestion in and around the local area and help protect the environment.

We expect all of our pupils to behave responsibly on transport to and from Dame Allan's Schools. This means following all safety guidelines and adhering to the Schools' code of conduct and behaviour policies, which can be found on the website: www.dameallans.co.uk/about/transport.

The vast majority of our bus services are managed by a specialist school transport management company, Vectare. They manage six different routes to and from the Schools:

Burnopfield
Central Station
Ponteland / Great North Park
Tynemouth
Great North Road
Hillcrest

For Junior School pupils using any of these services there is a school minibus shuttle to and from the Senior Schools.

Services run by external providers

The following services are run by external companies and should be contacted directly.

Bells of Stamfordham (Stamfordham/ Darras Hall/Ponteland Woosington Service)
Further details from Lynda Sharp on 01661 886 397/ 886 207

Kennedy's Mini Coaches (Alnwick/Morpeth Service)

For further information, please contact Kennedy's on 01670 822 249.

Jewitts Coaches (Hexham Service)

For further information please contact Jewitts Coaches on 01434 681325.

Public Transport

The Schools are also accessible by public transport.

36 runs every 18 minutes from Blakett Street to Fenham Hall Drive.

63 runs every 18 - 20 minutes from Killingworth via Blakett Street to Fenham Hall Drive.

87, 72 runs at 30 minute intervals rotating (i.e. 87 at 07:03; 72 at 07:33) from Grainger Street and Blakett Street to Fenham Hall Drive.

12 runs every 10 minutes from Wallsend, Walker, Byker via Blakett Street to Wingrove Road/ Nuns Moor Road and Hadrian Road.

32/32A - Walker - City - Benwell - Kenton runs at roughly 30 minute intervals.

You can see further information on the timetables for these services on the stagecoach website. Nexus also provides a journey planner which may assist you in planning your route to the Schools.

Travelling by Train or Metro

We recognise that some pupils may be travelling from further afield and may not be able to take a bus direct to the Schools. They may find it more convenient to come into Newcastle by train or Tyne and Wear metro. They can then catch the Central Station Vectare bus service to the Schools.

If there are changes to timetables or services during the academic year we will notify you in the following ways:

- 1) Email to Parents
- 2) Pupil Announcements Board

All information is provided in good faith and Dame Allan's Schools can accept no liability with regards to services operated by external providers and/or public transport.

Vectare's Services

Bus Fares

Zone	Single Trip	Regular Travel (per journey)
Zone A	£2.50	£1.90
Zone B	£3.05	£2.50
Zone C	£4.00	£3.15
Zone D	£4.95	£3.75



1. Scan the QR code or go to dameallans.vectare.co.uk to locate your nearest stop and book ad-hoc or regular travel.
2. Make your booking and get instant confirmation.
3. Contact our Transport Department via the website if you have any questions.

RideShare



In addition, if you are interested in lift sharing arrangements, you will now also be able to find other parents on the Vectare portal, at the same web address (dameallans.vectare.co.uk). Sign up is voluntary and when registered, you will be able to connect with others local to you who are either offering or looking for lift sharing.

Vectare's Timetables

Burnopfield			
zone	Stops	AM	PM
C	Bryan's Leap, Burnopfield	07:25	17:00
C	Pack Horse Pub Car Park, Burnopfield	07:30	16:55
C	Fellside Road - East Byermoor	07:37	16:42
C	Fellside Road - Parkway	07:39	16:40
C	Fellside Road - Fellside Park	07:40	16:38
C	Fellside Road - Runnymede Road	07:41	16:37
C	Front Street - Glebe Avenue (AM only)	07:50	-
C	Front Street - St Mary's Green/School Street	07:50	16:35
C	Rectory Lane - Millfield Road	07:52	16:34
C	Whaggs Lane - Oakfield Road/South View Terrace	07:53	16:32
C	Sunniside Road - Grange Lane/Elm Court	07:55	16:31
C	Sunniside Road - Hole Lane	07:56	16:30
C	Gateshead Road (Pennyfire Road PM)	08:00	16:21
B	Lobley Hill Road - Rothbury Gardens	08:10	16:14
-	Dame Allan's Schools [PM: Wingrove Road]	08:20	16:00

Central Station AM		
zone	Stops	AM
-	Bewick Street	08:15
-	Senior School, Fenham	08:27

Central Station PM		
zone	Stops	PM
-	Bolbec Road, near to Fowberry Crescent Junction	16:00
-	Bewick Street	16:15

Ponteland / Great North Park

zone	Stops	AM	PM
D	Darras Road Broadway bus stop	07:08	17:04
D	Main Street, Ponteland	07:11	17:01
D	Prestwick Road End	07:14	16:58
B	Great North Park - Kingston Park Road	07:22	16:50
B	Brunton Lane-Farm Cottages	07:30	16:38
B	Brunton Park at Great North Road	07:33	16:33
B	Great North Road - Three Mile Inn/ Bridge Park	07:34	16:32
B	Great North Road - Broadway East/ Broadway West	07:35	16:31
B	Lansdowne Terrace	07:36	16:29
B	Great North Road - Moorfield/ The Drive	07:39	16:25
A	Osborne Road - Jesmond Road	07:42	16:21
A	Osborne Road - Holly Avenue	07:44	16:18
A	Osborne Road - Mistletoe Road	07:45	16:17
A	Osborne Road - Acorn Road	07:46	16:16
A	Osborne Road - Sanderson Road	07:47	16:15
A	Jesmond - Mitchell Avenue	07:52	16:12
-	Dame Allan's Schools (PM: Wingrove Road North)	08:05	16:00

Tynemouth

zone	Stops	AM	PM
C	Tynemouth Metro station	07:08	17:08
C	Marden Estate	07:10	17:06
B	The Broadway - Mast Lane	07:13	17:03
B	Whitley Bay Ice Rink at Hillheads road	07:15	17:01
B	Rake Lane - Foxhunters	07:17	16:59
B	Earsdon Road - Metro	07:20	16:56
B	Earsdon Road - Middle School	07:24	16:52
B	Northumberland Park Metro Station	07:26	16:50
B	Station Road Nursery, Backworth	07:30	16:46
B	Forest Hall Road - Clousden Drive at Forest Hall Road	07:35	16:38
B	DSS Tyneview Park - Station Road at Station Road	07:37	16:33
B	Front Street - College Lane at Front Street/ Benton Lane at Front Street	07:39	16:29
B	DSS Longbenton	07:41	16:26
B	Benton Park Road - The Cloisters/Wiseton Court	07:42	16:25
B	South Gosforth Roundabout Haddricks Mill Road	07:43	16:20

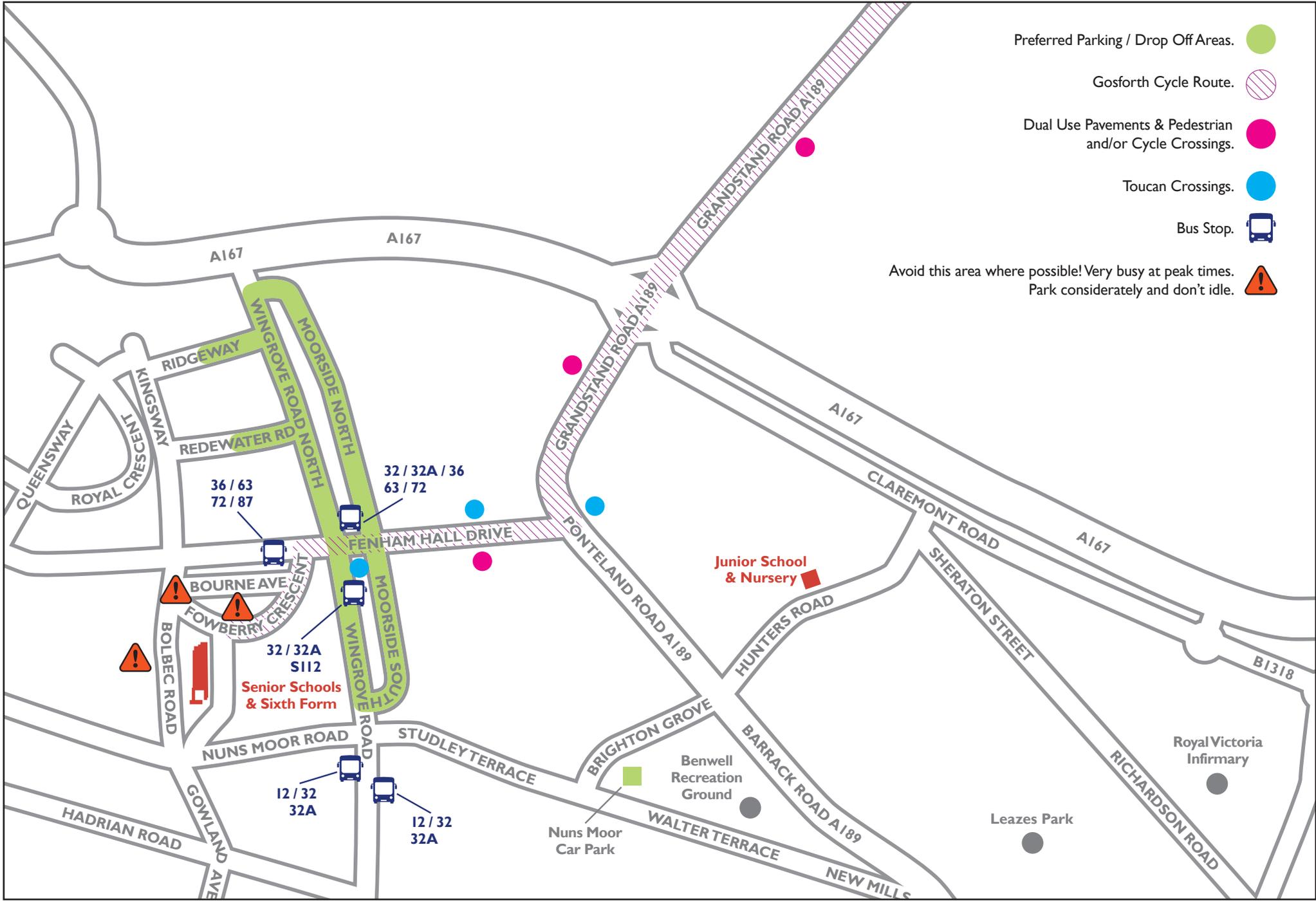
B	Haddricks Mill Road-Dene Crescent	07:44	16:18
B	Matthew Bank - Beattie Avenue	07:48	16:13
A	Jesmond Dene Road - Sturdee Gardens	07:52	16:11
A	Jesmond Dene Road - Ilford Road (PM Only)	-	16:10
A	Jesmond Dene Road - Highbury/ Great North Road	07:55	16:08
-	Dame Allan's School (PM: Wingrove Road North)	08:05	16:00

Great North Road

zone	Stops	AM	PM
B	Great North Road - The Drive/Moorfield	07:45	16:20
B	High Street - Graham Park Road (AM Only)	07:46	-
B	High Street - West Avenue/The Grove	07:47	16:18
B	High Street - Woodbine Road/S Cross Street	07:49	16:15
B	Salters Road - High Street/Headley Street	07:50	16:14
B	Salters Road - Sanderson Hospital	07:54	16:13
B	Salters Road - Ashburton Road/Northfield Road	07:58	16:12
B	Kenton Road - Salters Road/Yetlington Drive	08:00	16:12
A	Kenton Road - Northumberland Avenue	08:02	16:08
A	Kenton Road - Elmfield Road/Kenton Avenue	08:04	16:06
A	Kenton Road - Montague Avenue	08:05	16:05
-	Dame Allan's Schools (PM: Wingrove Road North)	08:10	16:00

Hillcrest

zone	Stops	AM	PM
D	The Prospect, Sunderland	07:06	17:12
D	Hillcrest (pick up on A690 at junction with steep hill)	07:15	17:05
D	Weymouth Road (Biddick Woods Estate bus stop)	07:25	16:55
D	Road End - The Meadows bus stop (The Dun Cow)	07:30	16:50
D	High General Woods (Bramhall Drive - NERCHE field car park)	07:40	16:40
D	Ash Meadows Estate	07:45	16:35
D	Mount Pleasant bus stop heading west	07:55	16:25
B	Durham Road-Harlow Green	07:58	16:22
B	Durham Road-Appledore Gardens	08:00	16:20
B	Durham Road - The Bank Pub	08:02	16:18
B	Low Fell (nr Valley Drive Junction, Durham Road North)	08:05	16:15
-	Dame Allan's Senior School (PM: Outside the dining hall)	08:20	16:00



Cycling

We really encourage pupils to consider cycling to school. There is an off-road safe cycling route from the Gosforth area to the Schools and pupils are able to store their bikes securely in bike sheds on site. You can see further details on our map on pages 10 and 11 which highlights the main cycle route.

We understand that cycling to and from school every day may not be convenient or appealing for everyone. However, we would still suggest that even occasionally cycling to the Schools is beneficial.

Asides from the overwhelmingly positive environmental benefits it is also a great way to start the day. Whilst most people will only think of the benefits of exercising as simply keeping fit, there is an abundance of research that discusses the impact of exercise on your brain.

From reducing stress and anxiety and increasing your focus and concentration immediately after exercising, to improving your sleep and memory in the long term, cycling is a really great way to start your school day.

Walking

As we have already mentioned, exercising on the way to school is not only a great way to start the day, but it is also hugely beneficial for the environment. We would therefore encourage pupils to walk to school if possible.

There have been significant attempts to make pedestrians feel safer when walking such as the latest updates to the Highway Code or Newcastle City Council's initiatives. Further details of the initiatives can be found on Newcastle City Council's website.

Driving

We realise that for some driving is a necessity and will often form a part of a family's daily routine. As there are a number

of pupils that travel to school in the car, we thought that it would be worth sharing a few tips and reminders.

- 1. Avoid Fowberry Crescent, Bolbec Road and Bourne Avenue.** We would recommend avoiding these three roads, as they are often very busy, especially at peak times. Nearby residents have to bear the brunt of the impact of this traffic and we are really keen to reduce the issues they face.
- 2. Don't idle and leave your engine running!** Not only will you save money but this is also hugely beneficial for the air quality around the Schools, thus protecting the environment and more importantly the health of your children.
- 3. Drive safely and park carefully.** If there are no other options and you need to park in the close vicinity of the Schools, please do so considerately. Take care not to block the drives of our residents when you are parking your vehicle and to adhere to the 20mph speed limit that is in place. Remember the raised area at the junction of Fowberry, Bourne Avenue and Bolbec Road is a pavement, and therefore cars should not be parked there.
- 4. Park and Stride.** Parking and striding (dropping pupils off short of school and allowing them to walk the rest of the way) allows you to get the best of both worlds. You can travel to the Schools efficiently and also do your bit for the environment. You will also avoid the stress of parking in the busy areas such as Fowberry Crescent, Bourne Avenue and Bolbec Road. There are a few preferred parking areas, detailed on the map on pages 10 and 11, that allow your children to walk the final part of the journey.

Did you know?

26% of those caught idling are spotted doing so outside school.

Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does.

This means school children are facing the consequences of poorer air quality more so than most others. (RAC Research)

5 Top Tips for Travelling to Dame Allan's Schools

- 1. Stay safe** - We have regular talks on road and pedestrian safety to help make sure the children feel as safe and as confident as possible when travelling to school. Pupils should make sure they have the right equipment, for example, if they are cycling, they should be wearing a cycle helmet.
- 2. Plan your journey and avoid peak times (8:20 - 8:30) (3.45 - 4.00).** Plan your journey to school before term starts, working out how long it will take you and familiarising yourself with the route. That way your child will feel comfortable with their journey and as a parent you can ensure an enjoyable travel experience. Planning ahead will also help you avoid the rush of cars at peak times in the surrounding areas around the Schools. There are plenty of brilliant co-curricular activities on offer, before and after school, as well as the after school area where pupils can wait until 17.45 which may also help you avoid the peak time traffic.

3. Start small - We recognise that converting to sustainable transport options may be a big change and not necessarily a simple one. We simply ask parents and pupils whether they can make small steps with us. For example walking and cycling or getting public transport once a month, then twice a month and so on.

4. Get a Nexus Travel Card - We recommend that pupils travelling by public transport take advantage of the discounts available to them. The Nexus Pop and Pop Blue cards allow children to travel with concessionary fares every day on all public transport in Tyne and Wear. Further details can be found here on the Nexus Website.

5. Travel with a friend - It is always nice to have a travelling companion whether you're walking, cycling or using public transport. If you are interested in lift sharing arrangements, you will now also be able to find other parents on the Vectare portal, at the same web address (dameallans.vectare.co.uk). Sign up is voluntary and when registered, you will be able to connect with others local to you who are either offering or looking for lift sharing. This will help lighten the load on your busy schedules and allow children to travel to the Schools together.

We hope that you find this information helpful. Our transport provision is evaluated at the end of each academic year and we always look to improve our offering and make travelling to Dame Allan's easier. If there are any questions, please do get in touch with us - finance@dameallans.co.uk.

