

# Ashfield Girls' High School

Hollywood Road  
Belfast, BT4 2LY

Principal: Mrs Louise Harvey BSc (Hons) PGCE, PQHNI, PGDH



30 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Due to a variety of different issues that have presented over the past 18 months, both Ashfield Girls' High School and Ashfield Boys' High School will no longer be using Belfast Bus Company to provide home to school transport. This will be in effect from 1 July 2022.

Thankfully, we have been able to negotiate a more economical, viable and long-term solution with Translink. (in consultations with both schools Governing Bodies and the Education Authority).

While we appreciate there will be some adjustment initially with the change of provider, it is the best option for the long-term provision. This option is also in line with the Education Authority's Transport Policy. The new provision will be operating from 1 September 2022.

Please find enclosed the following documents;

- Translink's comparison routes which cover the majority of areas previously served by Belfast Bus Company.
- Translink route maps covering East Belfast and Dundonald.
- Instructions on how to use Translink's 'mLink' app which can be downloaded to any smart phone. You can use the app to find a variety of ticketing options which can be stored on the phone and presented to the Driver whilst boarding. Tickets can also be bought on board or at any Ticket Vending Machine along the Glider Route.
- Please note that a Translink weekly ticket costs £7.50 which costs less than the weekly ticket offered by Belfast Bus Company, there are no limits on the journeys it can be used for throughout the week, and it can also be used at weekends.

Please be aware that there is now also a dedicated school bus which leaves the front of the schools at 15:30 and will now serve the Albertbridge Road rather than the current Newtownards Road, to allow passengers to transfer to 4, 5 and 6 services.

This service will also be brought forward to 14:35 on a Friday. Pupils in Ashfield Girls' High School will be able to wait in school, or alternatively use the normal Translink Service Provisions.

An additional 08:10 service from the Albertbridge Road to the School has been authorised, however we are awaiting clarification from Translink as to whether it will be a dedicated school service or an additional 3B (sweeper) service.

Translink will be supporting both schools during the transition period and will review provisions on a regular basis, in consultations with both schools and the Education Authority.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Ball in the first instance. The office will be open from 22 August 2022.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Harvey  
Principal

