

Good afternoon

I'm writing to update you in advance on some changes affecting bus services from September. Current government support in the form of a bus service recovery grant will cease this autumn. The Department for Transport has asked County Councils and bus operators to carry out an urgent review of local bus networks to re-base them on a sustainable footing, taking account of changed travel habits, reduced patronage, and other challenges such as rising costs and a national shortage of driving and engineering staff.

As part of this review of the local bus network in the Thanet area, some services operated by Stagecoach on a commercial basis will be discontinued. This may affect students travelling to and from your school. Where we've had to reduce services (as an absolute last resort), we have provided alternative suggestions outlined below:

Hartsdown Academy, King Etherlbert School

- The route **932** bus at 0825 from Margate to Minnis Bay will no longer operate. Please use the 0823 route 932 bus from Margate which has spare capacity.
- The 0801 route **932** bus from Dane Valley will also run along Maynard Avenue in order to serve Garlinge Primary School.
- The 1505 route **932** bus from Hartsdown Academy to Margate will no longer operate. Please use the route 32 service as an alternative.

Royal Harbour Academy (Newlands Lane), Dane Court Grammar School

- The 0728 route **933** bus from Cliftonville to Dane Court will no longer operate. Please use the Loop, 946 or 960 service instead.

Hartsdown Academy, King Etherlbert School, Dane Court Grammar School, St George's School

- The **943** bus will be rerouted to avoid reversing at St. Nicholas, The Oaks.

Royal Harbour Academy, St George's School

- The route **946** bus will be rerouted to serve St Lawrence, Newington Road, The Royal Harbour Academy, Dane Court and St George's School to replace part of route 933.

Dane Court Grammar School, St George's School

- The **948** bus at 0740 from Cliftonville will be renumbered route 960.
- The **949** bus at 0742 from St Peters Railway Bridge will be renumber route 960 and depart St. Peter's Railway Bridge at 0732, serving Kingsgate, Northdown Park, Cliftonville, Dane Valley, Laleham Corner, Margate, St George's School and Dane Court School.
- The **948** bus at 1535 from Dane Court will no longer operate. Instead, please use the 1535 route 960 bus that will be re-routed to St. Peters, Kingsgate, Northdown Park, Cliftonville (The Wheatsheaf), Dane Valley, Warwick Road and Margate.

Ramsgate schools – Chatham and Clarendon House Grammar Schools

- The **989** bus will no longer operate. Please use the Loop and 8/8A service instead.

From the same date there will also be some changes affecting other routes and services in the area. These are outlined in detail on our webpage here > <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-east/service-changes-in-the-thanet-area>

We will continue to operate the current timetables as normal on schooldays up to and including the last day of term (Friday 22 July).

With many thanks

Matthew Maytum

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