

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 10 January 2014 16:58
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: school transport to JMHS changes

Dear Mr Baugh

As a Parent of two pupils at JMHS I am amazed at the agreed changes being made to their School transport. I am aware that a Scrutiny Committee is due to meet on 15th January and that members of the public are free to ask questions.

Presumably there has been a formal consultation whereby all concerned, including Parents were informed of these possible changes to the Transport arrangements? Unfortunately I was unaware of this consultation and was therefore unable to make any comments. Will we now as parents have the opportunity to see the consultation document so that we can try and understand the benefits such major disruption to our children's education will achieve? Presumably a thorough cost analysis has taken place and members of the Council are clear as to the exact amount of money that will be saved by these radical changes? From Cradley and Mathon, current students in Y10-Y13 and other eligible students would still have to be bused into JMHS. However other students would need to be bused to Dyson Perrins in Worcestershire. Thus there would be two buses paid for by the Council not one. How would this save money?

My problem now is that I unexpectedly face the possibility of having to pay for both of my children to attend full time education at their catchment school. As I understand it, the transport department of Herefordshire Council appear not to use 'catchment areas' however, Schools within the County still do use such area identifications within their admissions Policy. JMHS has been the 'feeder school' for Cradley and was one of the reasons we initially chose Cradley School when we were looking to move into Herefordshire from Worcestershire. My daughter, currently in Year 7 attended Cradley Primary School and as a parent I was delighted with the amount of pastoral care and attention that was given to aid her transition from this relatively small primary school to a much larger High School. It was due to the many opportunities the children were given to both attend events at JMHS and for Staff to work with the pupils whilst at Cradley. My daughter is already settled, happy, has made many friends and because of this she is achieving well and thoroughly enjoys attending school. What is going to happen regarding transition to High Schools if these small village schools, such as Cradley no longer have a 'feeder High School' that the majority of the children will attend? Who will be providing this Pastoral care, Herefordshire or Worcestershire?

I clearly understand that Herefordshire County Council are in a position whereby they have to make serious savings. Unfortunately these proposals are likely to have a major impact on both our Children's lives and the communities that we live in. Is the amount of money that will be saved therefore worth this?

Yours sincerely

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