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Dear Parent/Carer

FARE PAYING STAGECOACH SERVICES BETWEEN NETWONHILL AND PORTLETHEN ACADEMY

Earlier this year the Scottish Government made it possible for all Under 22s to benefit from free bus travel, by applying for and receiving the new Under-22 Concession Pass using a National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot branded NEC. Link: [Apply for an under 22s bus pass online - mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot).

We wrote to you on numerous occasions with the details of how to apply and were pleased with the overall uptake. Since then, we have sent reminders and posted on our social media platforms, plus this has been widely publicised in the wider media across Scotland. You will be aware that there was an issue with the slow rollout of the Under 22 concession scheme, therefore a grace period was provided to allow more time for applications to be processed. We hope by now that all pupils have benefitted from this and followed the necessary steps to receive their passes, as that grace period is now due to come to an end.

With effect from **Tuesday 23 August 2022** all non-entitled pupils **must** either show their Under-22 Concession 'Pass' or pay the correct bus fare to get to/from school. This is in reference to the three Newtonhill to Portlethen Academy supported services operated by Stagecoach Bluebird – namely contract numbers: SS865A-R24, SS865B-R24 and SS865C-R24 – which are registered to carry farepayers in addition to transport entitled pupils.

The operator will monitor the transaction patterns and any driver feedback and report this to the Passenger Transport Unit. Spot checks will also be undertaken early in the new school year; therefore, it is crucial that all pupils always carry their U22/bus passes or carry the fare required to travel.

I would be grateful if you could share this information with your young person to fully prepare them for the changes outlined above. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Barry Drennan
Head Teacher

Portlethen Academy
Learn and Improve. Get Involved. Think of the Consequences. Respect All.