

12 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As an academy, we continually strive to provide an inclusive learning environment for all of our students as we recognise that this is an essential part of supporting effective learning. As part of this, we recognise that a very small number of students will need extra support with certain areas of school life. Where possible, we put this extra support in place and monitor its effectiveness at regular intervals. One example of this that we have used and reviewed is 'Bridge passes'.

A Bridge pass allows students with specific needs to leave a lesson and go to the Bridge provision for a ten-minute intervention period. When a Bridge pass is used, this typically results in 20 minutes of missed learning due to travel time to and from the Bridge provision. This provision was intended to be used by a very small number of students who absolutely need this intervention.

Having conducted a review of Bridge pass provision and their use it is clear that this process is not having the impact on many of the intended students. The number of students with a Bridge pass has grown significantly throughout the academic year which is now having a disproportionate impact on the development of those using their bridge pass and the remaining students in the lesson. As a result of this, our Bridge provision is changing to offer bespoke interventions for students which are to be agreed with external agencies and/or within our internal Inclusion Meeting and these interventions will be scheduled on a weekly basis. The Bridge pass provision will therefore cease to exist in its current guise, except for those students for whom it has been identified by lead professionals as an essential element of their provision.

We are therefore writing to inform you that, following our return from the Summer break on Tuesday 3rd September, the only students to have access to a Bridge pass will be those who are identified as needing one in order to access specific interventions or as identified by external professionals. The list below, whilst not exhaustive, gives some examples of acceptable reason for a Bridge pass;

- If identified within a Health Care Plan completed by our Welfare Officer
- A request from a Doctor with an identified time frame
- A request from a mental health support professional (e.g. CAMHS)
- If this provision is clearly identified within an Education Health Care Plan

If you believe that your child meets the above criteria and this has not been recently discussed with yourselves then please make contact with your child's learning manager to discuss further.

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Yours faithfully,

Mr J Mellor
Vice Principal