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CIRCULAR 2021-22 TL072

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students  
Cc: Bursar

May 2021

### **Translink**

The Education Authority (EA) has been notified by Translink that their bus drivers who are members of the GMB and Unite trade unions have voted to take strike action in relation to 2021 pay. This will result in all Translink bus services being withdrawn from Tuesday 17th May to Monday 23rd May 2022. Translink continue to engage with Trade Unions to try and avert this action.

Pupils who use any Translink bus service for any element of their journey are likely to be impacted and parents should make other transport arrangements for these dates. This includes pupils who connect with Translink buses using an EA yellow bus. As EA cannot guarantee pupils could complete their journey to and from school, even if the EA yellow bus is running, parents should make alternative arrangements for the whole of their child's journey.

This will obviously have a very damaging impact on our students ability to get to school as a large number of our students rely on public transport. We are also very concerned about the fact that Year 11 and Year 12 students have GCSE examinations next week and we would urge you to check with your child if this is the case. If your child is sitting a GCSE examination next week and you are unable to get alternative transport arranged, we would ask you to call us today or tomorrow so we can try and see if we can make any alternative arrangements for them with other parents or other means to ensure we have all students in school for their examinations.

If you cannot make alternate arrangements for your child to attend school next week please notify the College on 02844612115 or email [info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk)

I realise the last time this action was due to take place it was withdrawn but we must assume that it will go ahead this time and make suitable arrangements to make sure our students do not miss out.

Stephen Taylor  
Principal

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