

11 JAN 2012

# SAINT BERNARD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS & APPLIED LEARNING

DIOCESE OF HALLAM



9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Mr C Ruding  
Principal Education Transport Officer  
RMBC, Hellaby Depot  
Sandbeck Way  
Hellaby  
Rotherham  
S66 8QL

Dear Mr. Ruding

I enclose the responses to the transport consultation that have been returned to St Bernard's. I would also like to present the following points for consideration as part of the consultation process.

- Intentionally or not the impact of the change is focused almost entirely on St Bernard's. Currently 333 students are in receipt of a bus pass. 251 students would lose it under these proposals.
- St Bernard's serves a wide area: Dinnington, Maltby, Thrybergh and Kimberworth as well as the surrounding area, requiring many of our students to travel long distances.
- For some students the cost of the change will be up to £10 per week, for families with more than one child in this school this will be a major challenge.
- This breaks an agreement dating back fifty years to the opening of the school. St Bernard's exists to serve the Catholic community in Rotherham and other families who wish for an education rooted in a faith ethos. This decision will change the nature of the school by changing the families who will be able to access the school.
- Although students on free school meals would retain this pass, those families who just fail to meet the criteria will be under most pressure from this move.
- Students whose parents cannot afford the fares will effectively be excluded from the outstanding educational experience St Bernard's offers

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