



SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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BSH/CO/ADMIN/ALLDEPTS/SLT/BHS/2324/CARPARK

29th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I appreciate that you will have received my correspondence regarding the Ball Hall Car Park. I just thought I would write to you and give you further context and clarity over the decision. I do however, want to be clear that I would never want to upset or cause any of you any distress regarding picking your child up and of course I will always work with you to the very best of my ability.

In 2014 we used to be a very small school and therefore the majority of staff did not need to use our designated staff car park at the Ball Hall to park. This by default meant that there were free spaces for parents and carers to park and wait to pick their child up at the end of the day. However, over the past 10 years we have increased in size by approximately 300 students, we now are oversubscribed and have nearly 900 children. This means that we have an increase in the need for staff spaces. Whilst this is a wonderful position to be in because of our excellent reputation, it does come with a few issues. The grass where my staff used to park at the front of school is no longer suitable for parking. My long term plan is to get some of the grass tarmacked so it can be utilised for parking, but this is very expensive and is not something I can do this year.

I am therefore, now going to have to claim back the Ball Hall parking area, which was always meant for staff. This will mean that there are no spaces for parents and carers to wait to pick their children up. I have corresponded with all parents and carers regularly about the usage of this car park, because I have had concerns with:

- The speed which cars enter and leave the car park
- Cars parking on the verges and blocking exits
- Cars entering and exiting the car park whilst children are on bikes and are walking and leaving school

Most schools in Warrington do not have the luxury of having car parks for parents and carers to pick up and drop off. We have only been able to facilitate this because we were not full. The staff have to be able to park their cars and we have been struggling since September. I appreciate it is an inconvenience and that you are worried about how to pick up your child. I have to look after the safety of the children and the way in which the Ball Hall is being utilised by parents and carers at present is not safe, as everyone wants to park in there and despite the polite requests still do not always adhere to the requests. As I am short of staff parking spaces and because of my worry around how the Ball Hall car park is used, the best option is to just have it for staff. Staff are unable to leave site until 15.10 so the majority of children will have gone by then. Therefore, there will be no cars entering or exiting at that key time.

I appreciate a very small number of you are not happy with this decision, but I am making it in the best interests of everyone. Thank you to all those who have contacted me to say that you understand my difficult



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predicament and that you are trying different options. I know I do not have a perfect solution, but I will always try and do my best.

As I have already communicated, this new system will be in place from Monday. Therefore, please do not be offended if you are unable to come into the Ball Hall car park and are turned away. What I am going to suggest is that we will trial this new system until the Easter Holidays, and then I will make a more permanent decision, whether we continue or I find a different solution.

I would really welcome your patience and support and as I said I am not doing this to inconvenience anyone, I just need staff to be able to park and my wonderful students to be safe.

If there is a specific medical issue or SEND concern where you need to be there to pick your child up, then please do contact us and we will try and work with you on finding a suitable solution.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Scott-Herron'. The signature is stylized with a large 'B' and 'H'.

Beverley Scott-Herron
Headteacher