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Transport Concerns; Ringwood School Sixth Form

We need your help with a transport issue for students post compulsory education (i.e. 17-18 years of age). There are at least 14 students who use public transport in order to attend Ringwood School. After 16 all transport costs are met by the student.

The following examples are costs incurred:

Bransgore to Ringwood £5.60 per day = £28 per week

Breamore to Ringwood to Burgate Fields £6.60 per day = £33 per week

Calculations per school year taking into account INSET days and holidays:

Autumn term: 71 school days = £397.60

Spring term: 59 school days = £330.40

Summer term: 60 school days = £336.00

Total for school year: 190 days = £1064.00 (Bransgore-Ringwood)

There is a 10% discount card available with an initial cost of £10 HOWEVER the card is not valid before 9am!

10% of £5.60 is £0.56

£5.60-£0.56=£5.04

£5.04×5=£25.20

£25.20×38=£957.60

So with student card it still costs £957.60 per school year.

Calculations per school year taking into account INSET days and holiday with a full EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) of £30 per week:

190÷5=38

38 weeks per school year

£28.00×38=£1064.00

£30.00×38=£1140.00

£1140.00-£1064.00= £76.00

So although the EMA does cover the costs of travel it only leaves you with £76.00 to cover all other expenses such as trips, materials, equipment, etc. However few students receive the full £30 and some have said that payments have not even begun for the new term.

With partial EMA of £15 a week:

£15.00×38= £570.00 EMA per school year

£1064.00-£570.00=£494.00

This means that with £15 EMA you still have to pay £494.00 to cover costs.

Consider:

- Government intention to increase leaving age to 19,
- Green issue- it is cheaper to pay petrol and car sharing than to use public transport,
- Putting more young drivers on the roads who, statistically, are more likely to be involved in traffic accidents,
- Young people who try to support themselves financially and for example work in Bournemouth, are penalised through transport costs out of meagre wages,
- In the current economic climate choice of schools may be made on the grounds of location rather than educational provision.

The future! Choices:

1. Free travel for 16-18 year olds in full time education,
2. Subsidised (50%) travel every day for 16-18 year olds in full time education.
3. Subsidised (50%) travel, Monday-Friday for 16-18 year olds in full time education,

Gemma Harris-Deputy Head Girl
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Presented to Ringwood School Student Voice Strategy Group 07/11/2008