

School Transport – Place
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

To: Parents of **fare paying** pupil
travelling on service 466

Telephone 01629 536740/49
Ask for School Transport
Email schooltransport@derbyshire.gov.uk
Our ref
Your ref

Date 5 May 2026

Dear Parents

Service 466 and 467 to Heanor Gate Spencer Academy

You will be aware that Littles Travel introduced service 467 from April 2026 as part of a trial to help address capacity issues, and occasional behaviour problems, on service 466. Unfortunately, the number of fare paying pupils who are travelling on service 467 has not been as high as hoped and the service is not commercially viable for Littles Travel to provide. I regret that service 467 will be **withdrawn on Friday 22nd May 2026** when the Academy closes for the half term holiday.

It was indicated on the original letter to families that if service 467 was unsuccessful, it would not be possible to return to the previous arrangement where all pupils travelled on service 466. This position remains the same for the reasons explained previously and we will have to restrict the number of passengers who board. The only practical way to do this is to sell 'spare seat' bus passes to families. The annual charge for these passes is currently £484.00 per pass but for the final term (June to July), it will be £81.00 per pass.

There are now 26 pupils who are entitled to a free bus pass for service 466 and this leaves space for another 23 (49 in total). Any parents who are interested in purchasing a bus pass will need to apply for assistance and places will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Completed forms should be returned to schooltransport@derbyshire.gov.uk. If you feel you may qualify for free school transport, you can apply on-line at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/get2school

We realise that it will not be possible to accommodate all requests and this may cause problems for some families but we have tried to find alternative solutions with the assistance of Littles Travel and the Academy. Unfortunately, this has not been successful. The arrangement to purchase bus passes will continue into September and forms to apply to purchase these for the academic year 26/27 will be issued in due course.

I am sorry this news is not more positive and realise that it is a worrying position for some families. The Academy has become increasingly popular with families locally and is attracting more students from outside its normal catchment area. If there is the prospect of

another commercially provided bus service for fare paying students to use in the future, we will make the Academy aware so they can share information.

Yours faithfully

School Transport