



**Parent Council
Hillhead High School**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Silent Auction Fundraiser for a New Minibus

Hillhead High School needs a new minibus. The current minibus was bought in 2008 with help from the Tom Hunter Foundation and unfortunately is no longer road worthy. The minibus is critical for the school to be able to provide free transport to a wide range of learning, sporting and extra-curricular activities which enrich the school experience and learning for the pupils.

Free transport is so important. Despite its location in Glasgow's West End, 35% of Hillhead pupils receive free school meals and the cost of living crisis is also affecting everybody to some degree. The school works hard to ensure that the cost of the school day is kept as low as possible. Space is limited at the school and many planned activities are too far away to be accessed by foot and so the minibus plays a vital role in ensuring no pupil is excluded from opportunities due to cost reasons.

How you can help

We are organising a silent auction event. It will be held in September starting on a date to be finalised and will be open for 48 hours for people to bid online. We know from other schools that this can be a very effective way to raise money. 100% of the contributions to the auction would go to the minibus fund.

But we need your help! Could you provide donations for this auction which might generate interest from the school and local community and encourage people to bid? These could be high quality offerings such as jewellery, art or similar items or it could be a voucher for a restaurant or theatre performance. Are you someone who might be willing to donate their time as an 'item' for auction eg. gardening, sewing, bike repair, cooking? Are you or do you know a public figure, author, singer or actor who might be willing to offer a lunch/coffee/drinks together, some memorabilia or a ticket to a gig? The more innovative the ideas the better!

We would be so grateful for any support that you could give. If you have any questions regarding this campaign, or have an item or items that you would like to donate, please email hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com.

Many thanks for your help

Hillhead High School Parent Council
Chair: Valentina Kskhafa
Vice-Chair: Martina Johnston

Headteacher of Hillhead High School
Karen McAlaney

Background

Hillhead High School is a large multicultural and diverse school in the west end of Glasgow, with 83 different languages spoken within the school community. There is a strong focus on keeping the cost of the school day down for all families, especially those on a low income to allow full participation. The minibus is central to this, allowing free transportation to pupils at Hillhead to access a wide range of events and experiences.

Reliance on other forms of transport

The minibus is used on a weekly basis for a wide variety of uses, including transporting pupils to:

- Sporting events and competitions all around the country
- Science exhibitions and events
- Art and drama exhibitions, events and performances
- Chess competitions
- Language competitions
- Debating competitions
- Gender and Sexuality Alliance group trips to LGBTQ events

Without a minibus, teachers are required to rely mainly on taxis to take pupils to and from activities and events. As well as being expensive, since the pandemic, there is a shortage of taxis and quite often there are none available. These logistical arrangements are very time consuming and require more staff to accompany pupils in taxis. The use of several taxis in place of a single minibus also has a negative environmental effect and increases the carbon footprint of the school.

For events or activities further afield, the absence of a minibus means the only option is to hire a coach. The costs associated with coach hire have risen sharply since the pandemic and in the current energy crisis, meaning that this option often becomes simply not financially viable. The absence of affordable transportation means that, in some cases, our students miss out on participating in these positive experiences and activities.

Week to week the minibus is also used to take some of the school's sports teams to venues across Scotland which would otherwise be out of reach for pupils. These teams include pupils across the school year groups and boys and girls in a variety of sports including basketball, netball, football, volleyball, gymnastics, dance, and athletics. The school is in an urban built-up area of the city, and unlike many other Glasgow schools, has no sports facilities of its own and very limited grounds. Pupils and staff therefore have to travel simply to get access to sports facilities, and the minibus is essential for this purpose.

Duke of Edinburgh

Hillhead prides itself on providing the Duke of Edinburgh award at all levels for free to participating pupils. This is an important achievement for young people and being able to access it free is especially important for the families at Hillhead who would not otherwise be able to afford such an opportunity. The minibus is critical to the school's ability to continue to provide the DoE Award free as the method of transport for the required expeditions as well as other parts of the award.

Many of the participants in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at Hillhead use their skills and service in the local and wider community, such as litter picking, volunteering, and learning for sustainability events. These communities therefore benefit indirectly from the school having access to the necessary transport.

Access and Equality

For events or activities which are local, the school does encourage pupils to go by foot but this is not always possible for those with additional needs. The minibus, therefore, allow equal access to events and activities for all pupils.