

DO YOUR BIT

FURTHER EDUCATION TRAVEL RESOURCE PACK RETURNING TO COLLEGE – AUTUMN TERM 2020

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, [how we travel around](#) Greater Manchester has changed and you need to think ahead about how and when you travel, in order to keep yourself, your family, and others safe.

Transport services will be limited due to reduced capacity and social distancing measures, and with more people returning to education in September, we're encouraging everyone to walk and cycle if they can.

If you do need to use public transport, we have put more measures in place to help you travel safely, including enhanced cleaning, extra services and passenger information and signage.

Hand sanitiser dispensers are also located at interchanges, bus stations and at key Metrolink stops.

This travel information pack provides guidance to enable you to make informed decisions about your journey and help you plan for your return to college in September. For the latest updates on local restrictions and how this affects travel, visit tfgm.com/coronavirus.

Back to College

Colleges across Greater Manchester are planning to limit the presence of students and staff to help adhere to social distancing guidelines. Staggered start times will mean you don't always have to travel at peak times when public transport is at its busiest.

- Where possible, start your journey earlier or later so you travel at quieter times.
- If you live within a 30-minute **walk or cycle** from college, please consider changing from public transport and/or car to walking and cycling.



- For those who live further away, consider jumping off the tram or bus 10 minutes earlier and walk the rest of the way.

Things to Consider

How do you usually travel to college?

How will you travel to college in September?

Will you be travelling differently to usual?

Public Transport

Bus, train, tram and rail services are all running as many services as possible to support those returning to college and work in September and increase social distancing.

Bus

- Only 50% of pre-Covid bus services will be running.
- **Buses that have reached capacity will operate on a one-off, one-on basis.** This means that you might have to wait for the next bus if the one you plan to get on is already full.
- The capacity status may be indicated on the front of the bus, but this will vary by operator.



Tram

- Current social distancing guidance on trams means space will be limited, especially at peak times, and you may have to wait for longer for a tram.
- Check up to date [Metrolink service timetables](#) and the [quietest times to travel](#) online (usually between 9am and 4pm and after 6.30pm).



Train

- Purchase your [ticket online](#) or via your smartphone and pay by contactless (where available).
- Before you travel, check [train times](#) as these may have changed.
- If you're intending to take the final train of the day, buy your ticket in advance to ensure there is enough space for you to board.



Ticketing

Please **buy prepaid tickets or use contactless payment** where possible.

- If you can't use contactless or buy tickets online, **make sure you have the exact change for your fare.** Some bus operators have introduced an 'exact change only' policy; **no change will be given to anyone not paying the exact amount.**
- Bus operators have a range of smart products readily available that remove the need for cash handling on public transport. Visit [TfGM](#) for more information.

[Our Pass](#) is a membership scheme for young people who live in Greater Manchester, 16 to 18-year olds can receive free bus travel across GM on most local buses.

For a one-off fee of £10 you will receive an Our Pass card that allows you to get where you want to go, no tickets, no hassle.

- Members get half-price off-peak 1 day and weekend travelcards on Metrolink.
- Membership also unlocks exclusive experiences, discounts and special offers.



[Scholar's permit](#) If you're aged between 16 to 19, you can pay for child fares on buses, trams and trains in Greater Manchester for your travel to school or college. To qualify you must:

- Be in full-time education at school or further education college.
- Live in Greater Manchester.
- Not have any other free or concessionary travel permit from TfGM or your local council.

The permit runs from the start of September to the end of the academic year (31 July) and you can only use the permit in term-time (Mon-Fri up to 9pm).

[Download an application form](#) and apply for a Scholar's permit by post, or at a TfGM Travelshop.

[Discounted rail fares](#) for 16 to 25's – get 1/3 off many standard rail journeys:

- Get your railcard online or over the phone (where possible).
- Buy your discounted train tickets.
- Have your railcard with you when you travel.

Be Prepared

In order to minimise the impact on your journey, you should:

- Plan ahead - [choose how and when you travel](#).
- Set off earlier.
- Avoid the busiest times and routes if possible.
- Check timetables.
- Apply in advance for any passes you need.

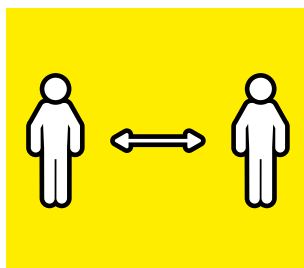
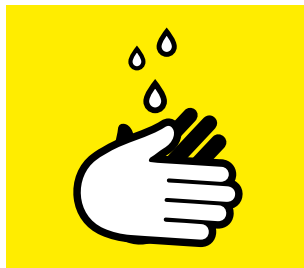
Safety

Please continue to adhere to social distancing and wear a face covering on public transport

Be respectful of others and help to keep everyone safe by:

- Considering other passengers and transport staff and wearing a face covering (anyone aged 11 years and over) when using public transport or inside any transport hub, unless you are exempt.
- If you're not exempt and don't wear a face covering, transport staff or police could stop you from boarding or can ask you to leave a service. You could also be fined £100.
- Stay safe by following social distancing guidance at stations, platforms and on public transport wherever possible.
- Carry hand sanitiser and wash your hands before and after travelling.
- Do not travel if either you and or anyone in your household are showing symptoms of Covid-19.

It is recommended that families check for [updated government guidance](#) regularly as advice may change as and when needed.



Walk or Cycle to College

Can you walk or cycle to college? A walk of 1km takes 15 mins or 5 mins by bike and can help keep you fit



Keep fit and healthy

Walking and cycling are not only great ways to keep fit and healthy but can also reduce stress, improve productivity and are good for your mental wellbeing.



Free up public transport

If you live close enough to walk, scoot or cycle to school, please do so to help keep public transport services free for those who really need it.

Save money

Cycling and walking are **cheap and cost-effective** ways to get around.

Great for the environment

Choosing sustainable travel reduces greenhouse gases that cause climate change and contributes to cleaner air.

Access to a working bike

- If you're looking for a new bike there are lots of bike shops – independents and national chains to choose from. Here's a [directory of bike shops](#) open across Greater Manchester to get you started.
- For those with a smaller budget, second-hand could be the way to go, and environmentally friendly too! Cycling UK has a [handy guide](#) on where to look or try these [local suppliers](#).

Get Fixed Up!

If your bike is stuck in the shed and needs a bit of TLC to make it roadworthy, Cycling UK's [Get Fixed Up](#) scheme is providing pop-up Dr Bike sessions nationwide to help get people's bikes back to working order.

The [Fix-your-bike voucher scheme](#) is available to anyone who has an unused bike in need of a repair, up to the value of £50. The scheme has been hugely popular and all the vouchers in the first batch have been allocated. Keep an eye out for the next lot of vouchers to be released.

Cycle with Confidence!

Everyone can learn how to ride a bike.

- TfGM offers free one-to-one and family [cycle confidence training sessions](#) across Greater Manchester.
- Cycling UK's video showing [how to teach an adult to cycle](#).
- Learn to Ride one-to-one sessions at [Nationwide Cycling Academy](#).
- [Bikeability cycle training programme](#) available across the UK.

Be Prepared!

Plan ahead and work out your walking route beforehand so you know how long it's going to take you, using websites such as <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>.

There's also some great walking and cycling maps on other websites

Safe Streets Save Lives

Through lockdown the number of journeys made by bike has increased to an estimated one million cycle trips being made each week.

The [#SafeStreetsSaveLives](#) campaign is supporting social distancing during coronavirus lockdown and recovery. We're creating safe space along major routes for the increasing number of people walk and cycle.

So far, a number of protected safe routes have been implemented which could be used to commute to school by bike.

You can find out what is happening in your area by visiting tfgm.com/safestreets

- [TfGM Walking maps](#) and [cycle-friendly routes](#).
- [Cycle Streets journey planner](#) can help you plan cycle routes, choosing the quietest streets away from busy roads. Or use their new [mobile phone app](#).

Car Travel

With more people returning to school, college and work in September, local centres around the college are likely to see an increase in traffic. By parking away from the college, you will be helping to reduce congestion and reduce air pollution.

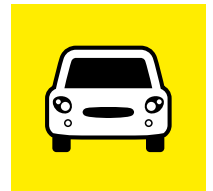
If you need to drive, please switch off your engine when stationary

Many drivers don't realise that turning off an engine and then restarting it can cause **less** pollution than letting it run – **and it also uses less fuel**.

Car Sharing

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to [wear a face covering](#)



Be Prepared

Plan your journey

- Plan your route, including any breaks, before setting out. Routes may be different as local areas make changes to enable social distancing.
- [Check that your vehicle is safe and roadworthy](#) if you haven't used it for several weeks.
- People from a household or [support bubble](#) can travel together in a vehicle.
- You should wear a face covering in an enclosed space where social distancing isn't possible and where you will come into contact with people outside your household or support bubble. Take care to [use face coverings properly](#).
- Consider making a [list of items to take with you](#).

We hope this information pack has been useful in helping you to consider how to travel when Autumn term starts.

For the latest news and travel information from Transport for Greater Manchester visit www.tfgm.com.