Cycle to Work scheme in action!

During Green Week in November the University launched its new bicycle purchase scheme. This gave members of staff the opportunity to take advantage of the Government’s tax initiative, aimed at encouraging more people to cycle to work.

The scheme works through a salary sacrifice arrangement, where the University loans the bike to participants over a 12 month period. A bike and accessories, up to the value of £1000, can be purchased with savings of up to 40%!

Kim Wan from Campus Services has already benefited from this great offer and now has a shiny new bike to cycle to work on.

Have you had a chance to use your bike yet? Today’s my first day using it, but before that I was car sharing with another member of staff. I’ll be using the bike for the majority of my commuting from now on.

Do you know if anybody else has signed up to the Cycle to Work scheme? There is another woman who works in my building who’s done it too, but the person at the bike shop said there were a lot of people from the University who had applied for the scheme.

Do you have any tips for others taking part? If there’s a bike you really want you should ask the shop if you can put a small refundable deposit on it to secure it. Some models are really popular!

Additional cycle racks have been installed in the car park outside the new nursery and further ones are being installed by the Palmer building and near to Whiteknights House.

Hi-Viz vests and D locks, at £2.00 and £12.75 respectively, are available from Security.

Reading Buses

Did you know since the last Travel Wise newsletter was released it has been all change on the Reading bus routes? Now not only do the 20 and 21 come on to Whiteknights campus from Reading station every 10 minutes, we also have the 19 service.

Replacing routes 62, 63 and 64, the 19 travels from Woodley to Bulmershe Court campus every hour and then proceeds to Whiteknights and Reading station. For more information visit www.reading-buses.co.uk
Connect by Hertz

After Easter, University of Reading staff and students will be able to take part in our new car club, provided through Connect by Hertz. A car club allows members to pre-book a car for an hour or more - you could book it for a whole week if you wanted to!

This will be the first Connect by Hertz car club in the UK that is outside of the London area, and we have been promised excellent discounts as a new member. The annual membership cost, usually £50, has been waived for our staff and students. The hourly rental is the only charge, and this covers insurance, petrol costs, congestion charge, and AA breakdown cover.

For members who just need a car to get to Greenlands for a meeting, for a big shop or a fun day out, this is the perfect solution for the one-off journey. Once you’ve booked a car, simply place your Connect card against the reader and you’re ready to go!

More information to follow, but keep an eye on the Travel and Transport section of the Clean & Green website for updates.

Parking on campus

The number of available car parking spaces on campus is often a contentious issue. There is a parking permit system in place, but this does not guarantee a parking space, so many find themselves without a spare space in the mornings. We encourage everyone who drives to work to be respectful of other drivers by not parking over multiple spaces, a sight often seen in some of the car parks! However there are a number of actions you can take to reduce the need for bringing a car onto campus.

1 Assess whether you really need the car. A lot of staff and students live in close proximity to the University, so with the weather improving could you walk or cycle onto campus?

2 Have a look at the public transport routes. Reading has a bus network that covers the majority of Reading and the greater area. The University is linked to three bus routes that come through Whiteknights campus, but there are two more bus routes that stop at University entrances. Have a look on the Reading Buses website and consider the possibility of using the bus to get to the University in future. www.reading-buses.co.uk

3 Share the car. Most people using their car are driving to University ready to start work at 9am – that’s a lot of cars arriving at the same time, and there’s a high chance at least some of them have come from the same direction. Why not offer to give others a lift? You could be saving money by sharing travel costs and reducing the congestion on the roads. We’ve got a car sharing scheme at the University that will even find a match for you when you register your route. Register now at www.rucarsharing.com as the more people who register, the greater chance of finding a match.

They’re all doing it. RUcarsharing.com?