

Rt Hon Nick Herbert MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

6 July 2018

Dear Mr Herbert

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mark Wignall, headteacher of Downlands Community School in Hassocks. I am sorry to hear that children from the school have been experiencing difficulties with the service between Wivelsfield and Hassocks.

We fully understand that passengers, especially school children, need more certainty and we have been working hard with Network Rail to introduce changes to bring stability to the Thameslink service. The aim has been to have fewer unplanned cancellations, allowing passengers to arrange journeys with greater confidence. Unfortunately, in order to help this process, some services have been taken out of the timetable temporarily and this includes the 0828.

We plan to introduce a new 'interim' timetable from Sunday 15 July and I can confirm that the 0828 is in this timetable (see attached). I appreciate that this will be close to the school end of year but I hope that this helps in the final days of term.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need further clarification or background.

Yours sincerely



**Yvonne Leslie**  
**Senior Stakeholder Manager**