

Badge of brilliance

A year after the 'Please Offer Me a Seat' scheme was announced, thousands of disabled passengers and those with invisible conditions have signed up.

MORE than 26,000 people are now using their free badges and cards, which help them to get a seat on public transport.

A survey of badge users carried out last month found more than 78 per cent found it easier to get a seat as a result of the badge and 95 per cent are likely to recommend the scheme to someone who needs it.

Deputy mayor for transport Val Shawcross said: 'I'm delighted the scheme has been such a huge success so far. The badges are helping thousands of people get around our city more easily and comfortably, and raising awareness of the responsibility we all have to look out for people with hidden disabilities and conditions.'

Did you know...?

Since their launch in London, 'Please Offer Me a Seat' badges have been introduced on the New York subway and by Greater Anglia Trains.

'In building a world-class transport system in London, it must be accessible for everyone, and on top of our record investment in step-free access, we continue to work to ensure 'Please Offer Me a Seat' makes life better for everyone who needs it.'

The badge and card can be used on all TfL services, as well as on station platforms and in waiting areas.

■ For more information or to get your badge and card, go to tfl.gov.uk/accessibility



Banish the festive Blues

CHELSEA take on Brighton & Hove Albion at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day, followed by a home clash against Stoke City on Saturday December 30.

Owing to planned engineering work on the District line, there will be no train service to or from Fulham Broadway station, which is the nearest to the stadium, for either match.

District line trains will also not serve Earl's Court and there will be no London Overground service at West Brompton station on Boxing Day.

To get to Stamford Bridge for these fixtures, customers are advised to travel to Earl's Court (Piccadilly line), South Kensington (District or Piccadilly lines) or Hammersmith (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Piccadilly lines) and walk from there.

Earl's Court is expected to be particularly busy after each match as only the Piccadilly line will be serving the station. Therefore, customers should also consider using South Kensington, Victoria or Hammersmith for their return journeys.

■ Plan your journey at tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey



CELEBRATE FREE TRAVEL

This New Year's Eve between 23:45 and 04:30, travel for free on the bus, Tube, DLR, trams and London Overground*.

#LondonIsOpen

*For full details, search TfL Christmas travel

Thameslink Programme closures

FROM Saturday until New Year's Day, rail services in London and the South East will be affected while Network Rail continues work on the Thameslink Programme.

Thameslink

Services will not run through central London, terminating at Blackfriars, Victoria or London Bridge (from the south) and St Pancras International (from the north). There will be no service at City Thameslink and Farringdon. All stations between Purley and Salfords via Redhill will be closed.

Southern

All stations between Purley and Salfords via Redhill, and between Redhill and Tonbridge/Reigate will be closed.

Southeastern

No service to Cannon Street, Charing Cross, Waterloo East or London Bridge. There will be no service at Deptford,

Greenwich, Maze Hill, Westcombe Park, New Cross or St Johns. A replacement bus service will link these stations with Lewisham and Charlton.

Gatwick Express

Trains will finish early on Christmas Eve. Rail replacement buses will run on Boxing Day.

Some TfL services will be busier than usual, especially between 8am and 9am, including District line (between Victoria and Cannon Street), Jubilee line (between North Greenwich and Waterloo), and DLR (between Woolwich Arsenal and Canning Town, and Lewisham and Canary Wharf).

The Circle line will be suspended from Sunday 24 to Saturday December 30 between Edgware Road and Aldgate via Victoria.

■ Visit thameslinkprogramme.co.uk/2017 for more details

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London Travelwatch

London's transport watchdog
call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*Service and network charges apply.
See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.



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