

Notice Board Bulletin for Week ending Saturday 10th August 2019

I'm seeing some excellent progress with you all this week with one test pass, an excellent first-time effort from Alastair. I'm delighted for you and your family. Very well done and I look forward to seeing you soon on your Pass Plus.

A couple of you have tests coming up in the next few weeks and I know you're working hard towards your practical test.

A common issue with everyone when they are taking part in their first few lessons is the fairly comprehensive challenge of balancing the multi-task of setting the gas pedal and the clutch correctly to ensure that you have sufficient power and bite from the clutch to move off safely and smoothly in the circumstances.

These circumstances may be moving away on a roundabout into a safe gap in the traffic flow, it may mean moving off at traffic lights when they change to green and there's an impatient driver waiting close behind you, thus creating a certain amount of pressure in your mind, or it may mean entering a new road from a T junction at the top of a hill.

Don't worry, this is a common problem suffered by almost everyone and is a major reason some people choose to learn to drive in an automatic car.

I'm not suggesting that is a solution for everyone, far from it, (I'd have to change my beautiful car). No, there's a not unique solution to this common problem, it isn't just you, it's almost everyone.

In the DVSA Guide Book, ***Driving – The Essential Skills*** there is a very good explanation on clutch control and it uses the term, "tight clutch control". This means, keep your foot in the area of the biting point for longer than you feel at the time may be necessary and at the same time make sure you have some power replacing the power the clutch has sapped out when you took it to the biting point. The engine needs a bit extra to get you moving away.

Keep your feet still so that the front of the car has lifted upwards slightly, then you know you have a forward motion set and you won't roll backwards.

Now, slightly lift the handbrake and pull the release button in with your thumb and when safe, release the handbrake by pushing it all the way down. The car will move forwards as you know and it feels like moving off on a magic carpet as long as you keep your left foot still, holding the clutch and 'tightly' controlling it for a few seconds, count to four slowly, then gradually release the clutch all the way out...

...Now's the time to pick up on your MS PSL Routine again and off you go.

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work and for using David Barter Driving School with the AA. Have a good weekend and see you all next week.