

We're delighted to announce that we are launching a new network of **SchoolConnect** bus routes from September 2024, linking Gamlingay, Potton, Royston and other local villages with Bassingbourn Village College.

Our bus routes

Route 811 will start from Biggleswade and will serve the following principal stops:

- Biggleswade, Stratton Park Farm
- Dunton, Church Street
- Ashwell, War Memorial
- Ashwell and Morden Railway Station
- Royston, Baldock Road, Golf Club
- Royston, Old North Road, Rock Road

Route 812 will start from Gamlingay and will serve the following principal stops:

- Gamlingay, Blythe Way (Eco Hub)
- Potton, Gamlingay Road, The Manor
- Potton, Horslow Street (West End Lane)
- Potton, Willow Road
- Potton, Newtown
- Potton, Bury Hill
- Wrestlingworth, High Street, The Slade

Route 813 will start from Meldreth and will serve the following principal stops:

- Meldreth, Whitecroft Road
- Melbourn, Station Road, Church
- Melbourn, Back Lane
- Royston, A10, Roundabout bus stop
- Royston, Bus Station (Stop 1)
- Royston, Burns Road, Roysia Schools

All routes will serve all marked bus stops along their line of route. Timetables and route maps will be available to download here from 1st July 2024.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you introducing these bus services?

Bassingbourn Village College is growing, and we've been made aware that the current transport provider will not be providing transport to the College from September 2024. We want to make sustainable transport options available to as many students as possible, so we're introducing this fully commercial network of bus services to provide sufficient capacity to get students to and from school.

How much will it cost?

Bassingbourn Village College buses will have two fare zones. Zone A, comprising all stops within Royston, will have an annual season ticket price of £1,000, and Zone B, covering the rest of the network, will have an annual season ticket price of £1,200.

Cash and contactless card payments are also accepted on board. A single journey will be £5 and a return journey will be £8. Please note that we do not accept American Express payments. Passengers purchasing tickets on board may have to stand for their journey, as all seats on each vehicle will be sold to pass holders if there is sufficient demand to do so.

IMPORTANT: If you board one of our buses and pay by contactless, but there isn't enough money in your bank account, you will still be able to purchase a ticket on the first occasion only, so you're not left stranded. However, next time you board a bus, you will not be able to purchase a ticket with the same card, even if you have money in your bank account on that occasion. Once you attempt to purchase a ticket with that card, you will be charged for the previously unpaid journey. However, you will then need to use a different card to purchase a ticket to travel on that occasion.

When and where can I purchase bus passes from?

Bus passes for the network will go on sale on Monday 1st July 2024. You will be able to purchase tickets via this site, and by downloading the myTrip App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

You will be able to pay in three termly installments if you wish to do so. The price of each term will be based on how long the term is. Full details will be provided here soon.

How will my child get their season ticket?

Season tickets will be supplied digitally, by way of a mobile phone QR code. Students will scan these tickets as they get onto the bus every morning and afternoon.

Do your buses have seatbelts?

The majority of buses in our fleet are fitted with seatbelts. From early 2025 this network will be operated by fully seatbelted brand new double deck buses, which are currently under construction. These buses will also offer USB charging, comfortable high backed seats and an overall very high standard of comfort for all passengers.

Do your buses have trackers on them?

Yes. All of the buses in our fleet are equipped with live trackers and you'll be able to see where our buses are in real time using our Central Connect and myTrip app, available for free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Are your drivers DBS checked?

Yes. All drivers used on SchoolConnect bus services are subject to an enhanced DBS check every three years, and undergo a DBS Update Service check every three months.

Is there a Code of Conduct for students to follow?

Yes. We expect all students to comply with our Conditions of Carriage, which apply to everybody traveling across our network. A copy of a student Code of Conduct specific to these routes will be circulated once agreed with Bassingbourn Village College.

Why are you more expensive than the previous operator?

The cost of operating bus services has risen significantly over the past twelve months due to increases in staff wages, engineering costs and the cost of buses themselves. We want to offer a sustainable bus service for your children, and so have to ensure that it covers its costs. In addition, in order to provide a high quality service, we invest in training our drivers to a high standard, and we employ a large team of management and engineering professionals to keep your buses clean, safe and running reliably. We're planning to invest heavily in this network over the next twelve months with new buses introduced during early 2025, allowing us to offer your children the very highest standards of comfort, safety and reliability.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Please contact our dedicated SchoolConnect team by email on schoolconnect@central-connect.co.uk. They will be able to assist you. June, July and August are our busiest time of year, so although we will respond to your email as quickly as possible, we may take a few days to get back to you. Thank you for your understanding.