

June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please be advised that if you live in the Comberton catchment area and your child is entitled to free transport to school from September then you will need to apply for a bus pass from Cambridgeshire County Council using this link: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/school-transport/pre-16-school-transport> The requirement to apply was introduced a couple of years ago and is a change from previously when passes were issued automatically so may be a different procedure if you have older children. Passes are issued only for a child's primary address as registered with the school, regardless of whether separated parents live in the catchment. If you wish to appeal this then you can write to the Education Transport team at edtransport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk after you have submitted your application.

The villages for which free transport is provided are: Grantchester, Coton, Barton (Wimpole Rd where distance is more than 3 miles to Comberton and on south side of A603 only) Haslingfield, Harlton, Orwell (where the distance to Comberton is less than that to Bassingbourn VC) Gt and Lt Eversden, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe, Gamlingay, East Hatley, Hatley St George, Caxton, Caldecote, Childerley, Hardwick, Dry Drayton and Madingley. If you live within the catchment but not near a bus stop, the council will either try to add a stop for your child if there is a safe place to pick-up or drop-off or will arrange for your child to be transported by taxi. If this is the case, then you still need to apply.

They are now accepting applications and welcome these sooner rather than later so they can ensure your child gets a seat on the bus closest to your home address. They do not automatically put siblings together so if you would like your new Year 7 child to be on the same service as an older sibling, please put this preference on the application form although it does not guarantee they will have space. Once your child has been issued a pass, this will be done automatically each summer and you do not need to re-apply unless you move house or have a compelling reason for your child to change to a different route from the same village.

If you live in a village not listed above and there is a Comberton-run sixth form bus to your village, you can apply for a paid-for seat if you have not already done so by emailing our bus manager, Judy Czylok, on jczylok@catrust.co.uk with your child's name and your home address. The current timetable of all routes including those the school



contracts are on the website here: <https://www.combertonvc.org/parent-and-student-information/transport>
Priority on these services is given to sixth form students but we aim to accommodate those in the main school wherever possible. Once your child has been allocated a seat, they will be able to keep it without re-application for the duration of their time at Comberton as long as the service remains viable. The routes and fares for 2022-23 are still under review but we hope there will be minimal changes to those currently offered. However, as we have had to tender all routes this summer and the price of fuel and drivers' wages have increased considerably, we are anticipating fares will rise by approximately 7% on current rates.

If your child has additional needs and has been allocated a place at Comberton then you may still qualify for transport regardless of where you live. Please contact the council on statutory.assessment&resourcesteam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for further advice.

Regardless of where you live, we intend to try to offer free bus transport for your child to attend the Intake Days on July 7th and 8th although this may not be on the service they will be allocated in September. Those entitled to use a council bus may need to travel on a Comberton-run bus from the same village to enable us to accommodate all Year 6 students in addition to existing users in Years 7-10. If your child is at a catchment primary school, they will be told which bus they have been allocated by their class teacher nearer the time. Those attending other schools will be emailed individually. As Year 10 students are not on work experience as they have been in previous years, the spaces available on each bus are significantly reduced. Therefore, it is imperative your child travels on the bus they are allocated even when there is more than one service from your village. We cannot allow standing so must ensure each child has their own seat. If you/your child has not been allocated a bus by July 5th, please contact Mrs Czylok.

Mrs Czylok will be happy to try to answer any other questions you may have so please email her at the address above.

Kind regards,

Daniela Glass

Admissions



*Comberton Village
College is part of The*

*Cam Academy Trust, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 0749 1945.
The registered office is at Comberton Village College, West Street, Comberton, Cambridgeshire, CB23 7DU*