

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Dedicated Bluestar (Private) School Transport Application 2024-25

IMPORTANT NOTICE – please study the NEW routes and times for 2024-25

You need to book /re-book **NOW (first come first served basis)** if you require a seat for September 2024.

Either post or email a snap shot of your completed reply slip below to: transport@stgcc.co.uk

No later than the closing date of Friday 14th June 2024.

Services are only offered to those who live more than 3 miles from the college or where there is not a direct route available on public services. The advantages are: -

- Safety and convenience of one bus direct to the college gates with no changes.
- Guaranteed no late mark should the bus be running late due to weather/traffic.
- A Bluestar pass/app which can be used on all public routes term time, half terms and weekends.
- Track your bus and its arrival time via the Bluestar app.
- Have the option to take part in after school clubs and get a later public bus home without any extra cost.

Fees for academic year 2024-25 will stay at £995. This has only been made possible due to the changes being made to the routes. Prices for 2025-26 will rise in accordance with inflation.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque at the Student Services office or via your child's online ScoPay account.

Information for online registration will be included in your welcome pack given to you at the Year 6 Induction evening.

Suggested payment plans:

1. 10 monthly payments: £99.50 due 5th September 2024 – 5th June 2025.
2. 12 monthly payments: 1x£93 due 5th September 2024, 11x£82 due October 2024 – August 2025.
3. 3 termly payments: 1x£380 due 5th September 2024, £350 due 5th January 2025, £265 due 5th April 2025

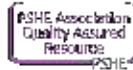
Cheques should be made payable to Southampton City Council.

Please note: Assisted places are available for those eligible: Satisfies the means testing criteria (child entitled to free school meals or parents is in receipt of MAXIMUM Working Tax Credits or Universal Credits, with an earned income of no more than £7,400).

If you think you qualify for funded transport, please contact the college for an application form. This form should be returned to the appropriate authority **not the college**, no later than 17th July 2024. (The return address is on the guidance form of the application).

Alternatively download print and complete the application form by following this link:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/in-school/school-travel-support/>



Each service provides 90 seats (except mini buses having 16 seats). Priority will initially be given on distance and to Year 7 and 8s; the remainder will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. As there is only one school bus each way per day, it is imperative that your child arrives at their stop 5 minutes before the bus is due, as the driver has a timetable to keep which cannot be delayed.

Timetables are available for viewing/downloading on the college website: www.stgcc.co.uk with further information on other public transport services available across the Hampshire area.

May I remind you that the college transport does NOT RUN on the Year 7's first day. Therefore, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to arrange this.

Important Information regarding your Bluestar QR code mobile bus pass

You will receive a "Gift Code" via email from Bluestar by 19th July 2024. Your child will need to download the Bluestar app **on their mobile phone (NOT YOURS)**. This gift code can only be used once so it is important that it is only used on the student's phone as it is not transferable. The Gift Code to access your QR code pass cannot be redeemed until the morning of 5th September 2024.

Hard Copy bus passes are available should your child not have a smart phone. Please contact the college.

On rare occasions, the college withholds the right to take back a pupil's seat once it has been offered. Our oldest pupils in Years 11 and 10 will be approached first.

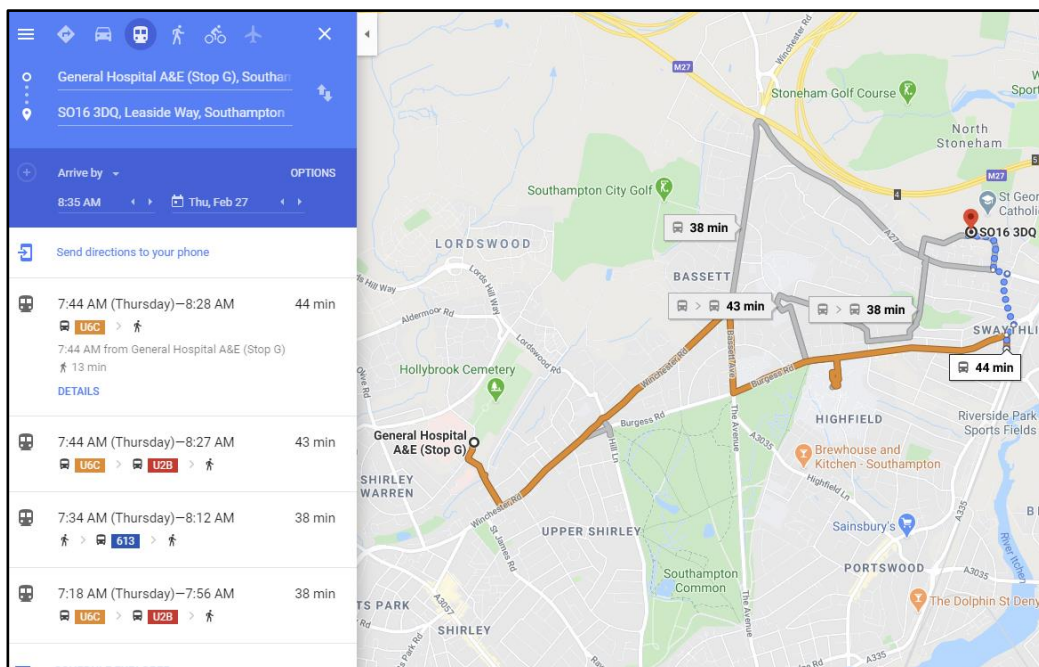
An example of this will be a late arrival of a student who is:

- Looked after (in foster care)
- SEN disability – physical/emotional/cognitive
- Any other reason at the discretion of the Headteacher / Governors.

Prefer a public service route, but not sure which one!

If you are unsure which public service is the best option for your child, just enter the college postcode "SO16 3DQ" into google maps, click "directions" and enter your home address. Adjust the "arrive by" time to 08:20am. The results will look like the image below with all available route options listed.

Bluestar/Unilink offer a "Child Southampton Zone" ticket at the very reasonable rate of just £11.50 per week. This can be purchased from the driver when boarding or via their app. Not only will your child be helping the environment by using public transport, but also they have the option to take part in after school clubs and get a later bus home without any extra cost.



Travel Code of Conduct Terms & Conditions

- As there is a waiting list for all services, failure to keep payments up to date will result in your child losing his/her seat. **We do not expect payments to fall more than 2 weeks behind at any time.**
- **Late applications for assisted/funded transport will incur the daily rate payable to the college.**
- There are no refunds given for absence due to a family holiday, sickness or injuries (except in extreme circumstances). Refunds are only given if you are willing to let the seat be sold permanently to the next student on the waiting list.
- If you decide at a later date that you no longer need transport, we will require a **“10 school day notice period”**, so it is imperative you inform the college as soon as possible. **Failure to inform the college will result in fees being incurred.**
- The services have Year 11 prefects on board who are “Bus Monitors”. **Any inappropriate behavior** will be reported and dealt with by the Senior Management Team and Headteacher. Fees will still apply if any student is set a temporary ban from the service.
- Those who screenshot/share their QR code with another student, will have their pass automatically deactivated without notice by the Bluestar app monitoring team for 24 hours.
- Should your child receive a detention, take up an after-school activity or stay behind for extra studies, the college will not be responsible to find dedicated transport. Your child will need to use their Bluestar app on a public service for the journey home, but at no extra cost.
- Any unpaid fares will be passed to Southampton City Council’s Debt department for collection.
- **It is your responsibility to provide a working email address (either the parents or the child’s) for the QR Gift Code from Bluestar to be sent to.**
- **IMPORTANT: The College have the right to withdraw a service from the timetable giving one full terms notice without prejudice.**

By applying to travel on the college bus, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions as set out in this letter and the attached Transport Policy.

You must reconfirm/reserve your seat **NOW** for September 2024 by completing and returning the reply slip below to our Student Services office. Alternatively, email a copy/snap shot of your completed reply slip to: transport@stgcc.co.uk **no later than Friday 14th June 2024.**

Yours faithfully,

Mr Samuel Guyer
Transport Manager
02380 322 603

Mrs Colette Corcoran
Transport Coordinator
02380 322 603 Ext 234

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Return completed slip to: Student Services **no later than Friday 14th June 2024.**

Student’s Name:.....Year/Class.....

PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT AN EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOUR QR CODE TO BE SENT TO.

Email Address:.....@.....Tel:.....

Service number :.....bus stop:

I have read and agree to the T&C and Transport Policy

Do you qualify for Free school meals: Yes / No **If yes, NI Number:**

Signed:Parent/Guardian Date: