

Great Park Academy Bus Service Change

Dear Parents and Carers,

We want to share with you an update from Newcastle Great Park Consortium (NGP Consortium) regarding the bus service to Newcastle Great Park (NGP), which many of our students use. This change will take effect on September 1st, 2024, and it will involve discontinuing the current Go North Q3 service.

NGP Consortium has been working with Nexus to enhance the bus service to Newcastle Great Park at school travel times. We are pleased that feedback from our parents and carers has been taken into consideration in this planning process. We are confident that the announcement of the planned bus changes detailed below will improve capacity for our students travelling to and from Great Park Academy during the morning and afternoon peak times.

Although Nexus is not yet at the formal notification period for service change, they are conscious that the school term is almost over, and they have given us the opportunity to inform our parents and carers of the change before the end of term.

From September 1st 2024, the Go North East Q3 service will cease to operate to NGP. It will be replaced by two services operated by Stagecoach as follows –

1. An extension of the **X47** from Kingston Park Road – providing a 15-minute frequency (daytime) connecting NGP to Kingston Park and Newcastle City Centre (Eldon Square).
2. A new service (**number 49**) operating from NGP to Newcastle City Centre (Eldon Square) via Regent Centre/Gosforth High Street. This service will operate on a 30-minute frequency during the peak periods to and from Regent Centre, then hourly to Newcastle during the day maintaining a direct link to Gosforth.

Initial timetables for both services and route maps can be found here - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/north-east/great-park-bus-services>

The current **X46** service to Featherstone Grove via Brunton Park, funded by Nexus, is unaffected by these proposed changes.

The new **number 49** service will have additional journeys in both the busy school morning and afternoon peak periods and is operated with double-deck vehicles, which increases the capacity of the service compared to current levels. Much of the normal commuting demand for travel to the city centre is also expected to transfer onto the X47, freeing up capacity on the services between NGP and Regent Centre.

Overall there is a significant increase in bus service provision to NGP which we hope will help increase patronage on services and ensure, in the long term, the services become sustainable.

Over the coming weeks, Nexus will be engaging with residents across the NGP area to promote the changes and are finalising plans for some events at the community centre.

Yours sincerely,

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