

WHILE bus services all over the country are under threat, one Mid-Anglian company are bucking the trend and have this week launched a new route.

Meridian Line Travel's new Village Links service started on Monday (January 9) to provide a much-needed route between St Neots, Papworth and Comberton Village College.

Although it is primarily for students at the college, which opened a new Sixth Form in September, members of the public are also be able to use the new 29 service.

It will leave Little Paxton just before 7.00am and stop at various places within St Neots before heading down the A428 to Eltisley, across to Papworth, Elsworth, Cambourne and Toft to arrive at Comberton at 8.15am.

The return service will leave Comberton at 3.00pm.

With the new Sixth Form intake, Comberton now has in excess of 30 pupils able to take advantage of the 29, which is initially running on a one-term trial basis.

"We are delighted Meridian Line has decided to put on this route," said Head of Sixth Form Phillip Evans. "We already had a number of pupils in the 11-16 part of the school travelling in from the St Neots and Papworth areas and this number has increased with the opening of the Sixth Form. We anticipate this number will grow with our second year of students in September."

Tim Dawes, managing director of Meridian Line, said: "We are delighted to have been able to set up this route to work with Comberton and hope it will be a success. We also hope it will provide a useful service for the general public.

"The stops we have set are not fixed and we will stop for passengers at any recognised bus stop on the route if requested."

More than 20 youngsters used the bus to Comberton on its first day of operation.

A route map, timetable and fares guide is available on the Comberton website www.combertonvc.org or from Bassingbourn-based Meridian Line (01763) 241999.