

16-19 Bursary Fund

Policy for the distribution of the 16-19 Bursary Fund 2020/2021

What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund?

The fund is made available from the government through its funding body - Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) for 16-19 year olds - to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers.

Who is eligible to apply for 16-19 Bursary Funding?

Students following government (YPLA or SFA) funded full time or part-time courses, who are 16 years and over and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:-

- Students aged at least 16 and under 19 years of age on 31st August 2020 who are in care; are leaving care; are in direct receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name; or are in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.
- Students who are economically or socially disadvantaged and facing the most significant barriers to participate in education.

Proof of income

Evidence will be required to support this application and may include taking account of household income as evidenced by receipt of Tax Credits Forms TC602, evidence of income from self-employment, a P60 or 3-6 months worth of bank statements. Unearned income (shares, investments, and savings) may be taken into account when assessing awards.

How will the school assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary funding?

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a limited fund and the school will prioritise allocation. There will be 3 priority groups, categorised as high, medium and low. Students who are eligible for any level of funding should complete an application form and hand it to the 6th form Office as soon as possible. A Bursary Fund Committee will meet to consider applications at all levels. Students who are deemed eligible should be aware that to continue to receive a bursary/funding:

- **There must be no unauthorised absences during the school day**
- **They must maintain acceptable levels of behaviour**

Students will sign a contract to that effect.

The Bursary Fund Committee

The Bursary Fund Committee will normally meet in October to consider and review applications.

The Bursary Fund Committee will be made up of members of the senior leadership team.

The Heads of Learning for Sixth Form will not make decisions about applications but they may offer information to the Committee about a student's circumstances, well-being, behaviour, progress and attendance.

Students and their parents/carers should understand that the available fund is limited. Any appeals against decisions can be made to the Chair of Governors, via the Clerk to the Governors who will follow the school's complaints procedure.

Financial support for 6th Form Students in 2020/2021

The following information applies to students aged 16 to 18 on 31st August 2020 taking a full-time further education course in 2020/21.

We will be operating three levels of bursary funding: high, medium and low priority groups.

High priority group

You could receive this level of funding if you are in care; are leaving care; are in direct receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in your own name; or are in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.

Medium priority group

You could receive this level of funding if:

- You have a gross annual household income of below £20,000 OR
- You are in receipt of Free School Meals OR
- Your household is in receipt of other income based means tested benefits.

Low priority group

You could receive this level of funding if:

- You have a gross annual household income of between £20,000 and £25,000 OR
- You have an identifiable financial need and do not fall into high and medium priority groups

Those in the medium or low priority groups may be eligible for a contribution towards certain specific educational purposes.

Those in the low priority group will be considered for funding based on the school's allocation and subject to available funding after those in the high and medium priority groups have been awarded.

Payments will be made on an as needed basis after consideration by the Bursary Fund Committee.

This information is subject to final government decision and the details may change.

Application Forms are available from the Sixth Form Office.

Application forms, together with the bank details form, should be returned to the Sixth Form Office as soon as possible.