

Hartismere Sixth Form

16 – 19 Bursary Guidance



The Government provides a bursary scheme to help some 16-19 year olds in full-time education.

The scheme is made up of two parts; a payment of £1,200 to a small group of the most vulnerable students and a Discretionary Bursary for schools, colleges and training providers to distribute. Details and application forms for both the £1,200 and discretionary bursaries are available from the Sixth Form Office. Eligibility criteria are also shown below. If you believe you may be eligible for the £1,200 bursary you should complete the appropriate application form and return it to Mrs Leeper as soon as possible. Applications for the discretionary bursary can be made at any time during the academic year when your requirements for financial assistance are fully known. Funds are limited and early applications are advised but we always try to support every student. **It may not be possible to support every application and priority will be given to those students with the highest demonstrated need.**

Eligibility

To be eligible for the **£1,200 a year bursary** you need to be:

- a. in care or
- b. a care leaver
 - a young person aged 16 and 17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16;
 - or a young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods of 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16). or
- c. receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because you are financially supporting yourself or financially supporting yourself and someone who is dependent on you and living with you such as a child or partner
- d. receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in your own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in your own right

If you meet the criteria for the vulnerable students' bursary, but you are not in financial need, you are not automatically entitled to receive the bursary.

To be eligible for the **Discretionary Bursary** you **MUST**:

- a. a student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2024 (at the beginning of the current academic year).
- b. be an enrolled student on a full time course of study at Hartismere Sixth Form
- c. be able to demonstrate an educational need for items being claimed
- d. have an acceptable attendance, progress and behavioural record in accordance with the Hartismere Sixth Form home/school agreement
- e. be currently entitled to receive free school meals **or**
- f. show evidence of a means tested benefit for you or your household i.e. income support, universal credit, employment and support allowance, housing benefit, council tax benefit, pension credit or tax credit with NHS exemption certificate **or**
- g. you have emergency/special circumstances affecting your living arrangements/household income **or**
- h. have special financial or other circumstances that are not covered by any of the above – evidence will be required.

Please note that if you owe money to the school then a bursary may not be paid.

Applicants applying for the Discretionary Bursary can apply for help with the following:

- Books, materials and equipment.
- Field trips and day visits.
- Re-sit exam fees.
- UCAS application fees
- Travel/ or transport costs.

Additional help

Under exceptional circumstances students who are not automatically eligible for an award can also apply for help with one off course related expenses (proof of income or hardship will be asked for). Applications for additional help will be considered on an individual basis and are dependent upon available funds. Please contact Mrs Leeper for more details.

Payment conditions

All bursary payments will be directly linked to attendance, behaviour and academic attainment.

All bursary payments will be paid directly into a student's bank account as follows:

Those receiving £1,200 Bursary

These payments will be spread evenly over the academic year. The first payment will take place at the end of September. If the application is received after this time, the first payment will be deposited into your bank account on an agreed date. Subsequent payments will be spread over the remaining academic year.

If the bursary is needed for payment of transport costs, we can arrange to pay Suffolk County Council directly. Please indicate this clearly on your application form and ensure that you bring the Suffolk County Council invoice for your school bus pass into the sixth form office.

Those receiving a Discretionary Bursary

These payments will be spread evenly over the academic year. The amount you receive will depend on the amount allocated to you.

For example, if you received a bursary of £600, you would receive it in six equal payments of £100. The first payment will take place at the end of September. If the application is received after this time, the first payment will be deposited into your bank account on an agreed date. Subsequent payments will be spread over the remaining academic year

If the bursary is needed for payment of transport costs, we can arrange to pay Suffolk County Council direct. Please indicate this clearly on your application form and ensure that you bring the Suffolk county Council invoice for your school bus pass into the sixth form office.

If your bursary is for a different purpose, different arrangements may be made.

Those receiving a one-off Discretionary Bursary

One off payment to your bank account or smaller payments may be made in-college.

Please refer to the Bursary application form for full details of eligibility and evidence required. These are available from Mrs Leeper in the sixth form office and must be returned with all eligibility evidence to her.

After your application

You will receive a letter informing you if your application has been successful and giving details of the amount awarded and the dates on which each payment will be made. These dates are only a guide and cannot be guaranteed. If, however, payments have not been received please inform Mrs Leeper in the sixth form office.

Confidentiality

Your application for a bursary is completely confidential. Only Mrs Leeper and people needed to process the application are involved. It is not discussed with anyone else.