

Thomas Telford School



**16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund
Information 2016-17**



Financial support for students in 2016/17

The following information applies to students aged 16 to 18 on 31 August 2016 taking a Full-time further education course in 2016/17.

What is the 16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund?

The fund is made available from the government to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. The new 16-19 year old discretionary bursary scheme has been put in place as a partial replacement for Education Maintenance Allowance.

Who is eligible to apply for 16-19 Discretionary 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 31/08/16 who are in care, are leaving care, are in direct receipt of Income Support (or the equivalent Universal Credit) or are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance
- Students who are economically or socially disadvantaged and at risk of not taking up or continuing in their education. This group includes students with physical or other disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning difficulties.
- Students who have been in care, on probation, are young parents or are otherwise considered at risk.
- Lone parents

How does the School assess applications and allocate 16-19 Discretionary Bursary funding?

The 16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund is a limited fund and the School has discretion to prioritise allocation. There will be three priority groups, categorised as high, medium and low.

High priority group

Students aged under 19 on 31/08/16 and who fall into one of the following categories:

- Are currently in care (as defined by social services)
- Are leaving or have recently left care
- Are in receipt of Income Support in their own name.
- Are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance



Eligible students will be guaranteed a **£1200** bursary plus support for other costs such as transport, equipment etc.

Payments of equal value will be made on a monthly basis, in arrears, over 10 months.

Medium priority group

Students who fall into the following category:

- Have a household income of below £18,000.

Eligible students in this group, if they apply to the 16–19 Discretionary Bursary Fund by **7 Oct 2016**, may be eligible for a contribution towards the cost of transport, essential course equipment, trips, uniforms, materials, etc.

The amount of bursary will be dependent on the number of applications of students who are eligible for consideration of support and the amount of funding available.

Eligibility is also dependent on meeting attendance, behaviour and academic performance criteria. That is:

- Good attendance over 97%
- Good conduct and module reports
- Meeting homework and coursework deadlines as set by teachers.

NB: If a student does not meet these criteria during a module, it could lead to the loss of a monthly payment. Continued failure to meet criteria could lead to the loss of the remaining bursary.

Payments of equal value will be made on a monthly basis, in arrears, over 10 months.

Low priority group

- Have a gross annual household income between £18,001 and £25,000

Those in the low priority group will be considered for a bursary subject to available funding after those in the high and medium priority groups have been awarded. In some cases awards may not be made until after 31 December 2016. Students in this group may get a **contribution** towards the cost of essential course equipment, uniforms and transport costs (they may also receive a cash bursary if aged under 19 on 31/08/15, if funds permit).

Payments will be made as a one off payment as needed.

NB: All students who receive a bursary will be subject to monthly reviews. Any changes in circumstances could lead to a review of entitlement.

