

## Lowestoft 6<sup>th</sup> Form Bursary Statement 2017-18

The 16-19 Bursary Fund has two elements:

### Vulnerable Bursary

- A bursary of £1,200 a year for young people in the following defined vulnerable groups: in care; care leavers; young people in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit; and disabled young people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance who are also in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.
- The college will require evidence of these benefits, a benefit award letter or letter from a social worker/support worker stating the circumstances. Students cannot self-certify their eligibility for the 16 -19 Bursary Fund.
- The Vulnerable Bursary is paid in 4 lots of £300. These payments are generally made in September, December, February and April.

### Discretionary Bursary

- The Discretionary Bursary awards are targeted towards those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to participation, in households where the income is £16,190 or less. The award will initially be made in the form of a free meal entitlement, a bursary payment will be decided once we know how many students qualify for the bursary.
- Evidence of the household income is detailed in the college 16-19 bursary application form must be provided in order for the application to be assessed. All evidence needs to be current and copies will be kept on file. Students cannot self-certify their eligibility for the college 16-19 Bursary Fund. Applications from students who do not fulfil the criteria as detailed on the application form will be considered on an individual basis depending on personal circumstances.
- The college will determine which young people should receive a discretionary bursary and how much they should receive, subject to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- The college will assess all applications received before the official census date, (mid October). This assessment will be documented and retained for audit purposes.
- Any payments will be decided upon once we know the commitment the college has with free meals. The first payment will be after the October half term. The payments will be spread over the academic year.
- Bursary awards are to be used to help young people meet the costs related to participation in education e.g. meals whilst attending their course, transport, books and equipment, field trips and other course related costs, including the costs of attending university interviews and open days.

Young people currently or previously in receipt of free school meals are not automatically entitled to receive a bursary.

When assessing the need for financial support the College will also consider other exceptional circumstances, including what other benefits the household is receiving and whether the young person is providing care for short or long periods. Receipt of other benefits and financial support does not exclude a young person from receiving a bursary (e.g. support from Care to Learn)

Any bursary payments will be directly linked to attendance, behaviour and performance, and if these are not at an acceptable level that payments may be delayed or not paid.

The complete 16-19 Bursary Fund Guide for 2017/18 from the Education Funding Agency can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2017-to-2018-academic-year>