

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help students facing financial hardship to continue in full-time education after Year 11.

To qualify, a student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2019 to be eligible for help from the bursary fund in the 2019 to 2020 academic year.

Students aged 19 or over are only eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they are continuing on the same programme of study they began aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuers) or have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Students aged 19 or over are not eligible for vulnerable group bursaries.

Please note that funds are strictly limited. Bands are subject to change depending on ESFA funding. However, all applications will be reviewed and awards made according to need as far as possible.

PAYMENTS, ORGANISATION & APPEALS

Payment will be made by BACS into a **student's bank account** half-termly in arrears and on a pro-rata basis. If a student does not have a bank account they will need to open one in order to receive their bursary. Payments are dependent on student attendance, conduct and application to their studies. Students and parents/guardians will be expected to agree to and sign a **Bursary Fund Agreement** before payments are made.

The **Sixth Form Bursary Team** will be responsible for deciding who receives the awards based on the criteria outlined in this leaflet. The Bursary Fund is given to the school each year by the ESFA (Education & Skills Funding Agency). Once these monies have been allocated the school will be unable to make further grants until the new academic year.

Appeals relating to the bursary or grant should be made in the first instance to Mrs Buck. Final appeals should be made in writing to the Deputy Head Teacher responsible for the Sixth Form.

The Thomas Hardy Sixth Form



**Bursary Fund Guide
2019—2020**

THE SCHEME COMPRISES TWO PARTS:

1 A VULNERABLE STUDENT BURSARY

(Band 1) of up to £1,200.00 per academic year for those most in need of financial support:

- Young people in care or having recently left local authority care.
- Those receiving Income Support or Universal Credit and financially supporting themselves and/or a dependent (ie child or partner living with them).
- In receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment in their own right **and** Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right.

2 A DISCRETIONARY BURSARY (split into different bands dependent upon household income) available for students in need of financial support with costs to enable them to stay in education.

Eligibility for a Discretionary Bursary is based on household income (verified by Tax Credit/Universal Credit awards, a P60 or other benefits statements).

Band 2 – Gross annual household income totalling £16,190 or less and in receipt of Child Tax Credits or net household income under £7,400 and in receipt of Universal Credit. Students will receive an initial one-off payment towards resource/travel costs. They will also receive a Free School Meal and a weekly payment subject to their attendance, conduct and attitude to learning.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

Students who live in a household with a gross income totalling £16,190 or below and are in receipt of Child Tax Credits or with a net income of £7,400 or less and in receipt of Universal Tax Credits, are eligible for a Free School Meal in addition to the Band 2 Bursary.

Band 3 – Annual household income totalling £16,191 to £20,000 (including Tax Credits or Universal Credit). Students will receive a daily contribution towards the cost of a school meal and an initial one-off payment towards resource/travel costs. They will also receive a weekly payment subject to their attendance, conduct and attitude to learning.

Band 4 – Annual household income totalling £20,001 to £25,000 (including Tax Credits or Universal Credit). Students will receive a half-termly payment towards resource/travel costs subject to their attendance, conduct and attitude to learning.

Band 5—An **Educational Support Grant** may be available for students not eligible for the High Priority or Discretionary Bursaries but in need of financial support with specific costs to enable them to stay in education and complete their courses successfully. Educational Support Grant applications will be assessed individually for eligibility according to household income and circumstances. Once granted, funds may be used towards transport to and from school; books/equipment/materials/specialist clothing; essential educational visits related to courses; UCAS fees and travel expenses for Higher Educational visits.

Students receiving Band 2, 3 or 4 Discretionary Bursaries may also be able to claim for additional assistance towards costs for clothing, equipment and essential educational visits if they are undertaking certain courses with high expenditure expected, ie, CACHE, Art, Photography, Geography.

HARDYEANS CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Students are also welcome to apply to the Hardyeans Charitable Association which considers applications from students who are in need of financial assistance. In particular, the charity may provide additional financial resources to enable students to broaden their education by joining organised school visits outside the UK and award scholarships, bursaries, maintenance allowances or grants to students (or former students under the age of 25 years) completing their higher education at university or other education institutions approved by trustees.

The **16-19 Fund Application Form** can be found on the school website and should be submitted to Mrs Buck in the Sixth Form Attendance Office. Paper copies are available from the Sixth Form Office.

Appropriate evidence will be required to support the application.

For the **High Priority Bursary** :

- A letter referring to the benefit(s) to which the young person is entitled and/or
- Written confirmation from the Local Authority of the young person's current or previous looked after status.

For the **Discretionary Bursaries** and **Educational Support Grant** :

- Evidence of benefits, grants and household income (ie Child and Working Tax Credit award statements, the three most recent Universal Tax Credit award statements and/or
- P60 for each working adult in the household).

Students whose applications are received before **Friday 27th September 2019** will receive payments backdated to the beginning of the Autumn Term. Those whose applications are received after this date will receive payments from the date that their application is approved. Weekly payments are accrued based on full attendance at registration periods and lessons, good conduct and a positive attitude to learning. It will be paid half-termly in arrears.

The award is for the 2019/20 academic year.

Students will need to re-apply in the summer of 2020 if they wish to receive a bursary for the 2020/21 academic year.