**BURSARY FUND**

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is launched every year in September with application forms available from 6th Form Reception. If at any time during the Sixth Form you are suffering financial hardship, please speak to Mrs Bullion to discuss the possibility of applying for an appropriate bursary.

**FAQs**

1. **What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund**

Little Heath School has been allocated a 16-19 Bursary Fund for the purpose of supporting financially disadvantaged young people taking up or continuing in their education or training post-16.

1. **What is it for?**

The 16-19 Bursary is a limited fund made available for supporting eligible young people with the costs of transport, meals, books, educational visits or other course materials or equipment essential to successfully completing their programme of study.

1. **Who is it for?**

The 16-19 Bursary is targeted towards those young people considered most in need of financial support. The Government has identified a priority group of young people and have asked that schools give priority to this group first and offer them a **Guaranteed Bursary**.

After this group has been considered, the school expect to have a small amount of funding available for other young people in need of financial support. The School has set **eligibility criteria** to ensure the remaining funds go to those who are seen to need it most. Any young person who meets these eligibility criteria can apply for a **Discretionary Bursary**.

1. **What are the eligibility criteria?**

Young people can apply for a Bursary if they are aged 16, 17 or 18 at 31st August 2016, meet the national residency requirements (i.e. UK resident for at least three years), and also meet at least one of the criteria listed below.

Students can apply for a **Guaranteed Bursary** ifthey are:

* Young people in care
* Young care leavers
* Young people in receipt of Income Support or the equivalent Universal Credit (UC) in their own right.
* Young people in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence Payments in their own right

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They can apply for a **Discretionary Bursary** if either:

* your gross annual household income does not exceed **£16,190** and/or;
* they, or a brother/sister, qualifies for Free School Meals (FSM)

1. **Can students still apply if they don’t meet the eligibility criteria?**

Yes, providing they meet the age and residency eligibility criteria. The school is keeping back some of the available 16-19 Bursary Fund for exceptional circumstances for one-off payments or additional support.

1. **What are the deadlines?**

To apply, they must complete the **16-19 Bursary Fund Application Form** and submit this to **Mrs Bullion (Sixth Form)** with the correct **supporting evidence, as detailed in the application pack, by** **14 October 2016.**

*However, it is possible for students to apply for a Bursary at any point in the year but those applying before the date above will be given priority. Bursary offers can only be made after this date if sufficient funds are available. The Bursary scheme will close when the funds allocated have been used*.

1. **How much is the Bursary?**

The **Guaranteed Bursary** is **up to £1,200** and the **Discretionary Bursary** is **up to** **£400**. *The exact amount is dependent on individual circumstances and funds available and may occasionally exceed the £400 limit for a discretionary bursary in exceptional circumstances.*

1. **Will the Bursary affect any benefits I may be receiving?**

No, it will not affect any benefits or financial support you are receiving from elsewhere.

1. **How and when does it get paid?**

If your young person applies and is successful, they will need a **Bank Account** for the Bursary to be paid directly into. It will be paid monthly and a full payment schedule will be published to the student once their bursary has been agreed. Bursary payments are only made subject to the young person meeting attendance, punctuality and satisfactory behaviour conditions.

1. **How do I find out more?**

See the **16-19 Bursary Fund** **Policy** which provides further information, including details on eligibility criteria and **supporting evidence** needed (you can request a copy from Mrs Bullion). You can talk in confidence to **Mrs Bullion** if you have specific questions or need help or assistance in supporting your young person to make an application.

Alternatively, please visit www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund