

Blue Coat Church of England Academy

NEWSLETTER

**What is the 16-19 Bursary fund?**

The Government has set aside some money for schools to allocate to young people who need financial support to stay on in further education or training. This is called the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

It could help you with any education-related costs that may arise during the school year, including essentials like a meal during the day or transport to your school. Or you might need extra help to buy books, clothing or equipment for your course, or pay for educational visits.

How do I know if I am eligible?

To apply for a bursary, you must be at least 16 years' old and under 19 years old at the start of the 2021/22 academic year. You must also be taking part in full-time or part-time further education or training.

What will I get?

There are **two** types of bursaries:

Vulnerable student bursary – you could receive up to £1,200 if you:

- are in local authority care or you have recently left local authority care; or
- receive Income Support or Universal Credit (a new benefit which will replace Income Support) in your own name; or
- are disabled and receive both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments (a new benefit which will replace Disability Living Allowance) in your own name.

Discretionary bursary – You can apply for a discretionary bursary if you are not eligible for a vulnerable bursary but you need financial help to stay on in further education

The Academy will decide whether you will receive a discretionary bursary, how much you could get, and what it should be used for. The Academy sets its own criteria for discretionary bursaries. We have made the decision to link this primarily to **eligibility for free school meals or families on a low income** and to limit this to £298 per academic year. This is currently set at a maximum of £100 per term and requires students to meet the following conditions to continue to receive the bursary allocation. **This is in relation to their standards of attendance and behaviour: Attendance above 95% and following the sixth form code of conduct.**

How do I apply?

You will need to apply to Blue Coat Church of England Academy. Further information regarding the application process, criteria and an application pack can be obtained from the Academy website or any member of the Sixth Form team. Evidence for eligibility will be requested and where possible we will auto-approve or auto-renew applications.

When should I apply?

You should make your application as soon as you have started at the Academy. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will start to receive support.

How will my bursary be paid?

The academy will make purchases on your behalf to support your learning. This could include: stationary, books, bus pass, laptops, UCAS fees, university visits. Other requests will be accepted and discussed on an individual basis.

Will the Academy stop my bursary allowance if I don't attend or if I misbehave?

Yes, we will almost certainly set conditions on your bursary – these are rules that you will need to stick to, such as attending classes regularly or behaving well. If you don't stick to these conditions, the Academy can stop your bursary allowance.

Students must meet the following conditions to continue to receive the bursary allocation. This in relation to their standards of attendance and behaviour:

- Attendance above 95%
- Following your sixth form code of conduct

If I can't attend school because of illness or absence will I still receive my bursary?

If you are ill or have been allowed an authorised absence, **Miss Vernon** will let you know whether this will affect your bursary payments.

For further Advice and Information, please speak with: **Miss Vernon or Mrs Devlin**

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