

PRIESTLEY BURSARIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2012/2013

THE 16-18 BURSARIES

If you will be 16-18 on 1 September 2012 you may be entitled to apply for support from either the National Bursary Scheme or from the Priestley Governors' Bursary Fund.

Vulnerable Learner Bursary:

These are worth £1,200 and are targeted at those young people who are one or more of the following:

- In Care
- Care Leavers
- In receipt of Income Support
- In receipt of Employment Support Allowance together with Disability Living Allowance

Travel Bursaries:

Students who were entitled to Free School Meals in Year 11 who use public transport to get to College will be able to apply for a Travel Bursary of up to £10 per week.

Mainstream Bursaries

There are three categories of Mainstream Bursaries:

- 1) These are targeted at those students whose parents/careers receive one or more of the following: (up to £400)*
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit, provided they were not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
 - And or where the student was entitled to Free School Meals in Year 11
- 2) These are targeted at those students not in category 1 where their parents or careers have an annual income of less than £21,000. (up to £200)*
- 3) These are targeted at those who face emergency short term financial hardship.

Bursary Funds can be used to support costs with: Travel, meals, equipment and materials, course related visits, UCAS applications, sport activities, and/or one off emergencies.

Payments may be made direct to the supplier rather than to the individual student. For example for all or part of a bus pass or sport or art kits.

***Note:** The actual amount allocated will depend on personal circumstances and on the overall number of Bursaries awarded as there is a fixed amount of money allocated to the College for Bursaries.

Priestley College Governors' Bursaries

If you are not eligible for one of the 16-18 Bursaries you may be able to apply for a Priestley Governor's Bursary. You will complete the same application form and be required to provide the same evidence as for a 16-18 Bursary. We are however able to use our discretion to meet individual needs where students may not fulfil the national eligibility criteria.

19+ Discretionary Learner Support Fund

This fund is targeted at those students who will be 19 or older on 1 September 2012 who face significant financial hardship. This fund supports cost as listed above but can also be used to support costs for: Tuition and exam fees and/or Child Care.

OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Child Benefit: Parents can continue to claim Child Benefit until their child's 20th birthday if you stay in full time education.

Care to Learn: Those students under the age of 20 can apply for financial support to cover childcare costs up to £160 per week through the Care to Learn scheme. Childcare must be provided by an OFSTED registered childcare provider.

APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT

If you believe you are eligible for financial support from either one of the Bursary Schemes or the 19+ Discretionary Learner Support Fund you will need to complete an application form. The initial application deadline is 15 September.

Application Forms are available from Student Services on 01925 633591 or Admissions on 01925 415 415. They will also be available at Registration.

If you bring your application and supporting evidence to Registration and we will aim to give you a decision on your eligibility at that point. However it may take up to 3 weeks to assess the level of support you will be entitled to unless you are one of those entitled to a Vulnerable Learner Bursary or you were entitled to Free School Meals in Year 11 where we may be able to make immediate decisions at registration.

The supporting evidence you may provide includes:

- A statement from the relevant local authority for those in care
- A statement from the relevant social services for care leavers (it may be possible to verify status via a known supported accommodation address)
- A statement from the relevant local authority in relation to eligibility for Free School Meals
- A statement from the Department for Work and Pensions
- A letter from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- A P60
- Tax Credit Award Notice
- Evidence of self employment income

Those who received a Bursary from College in 2011/12 will complete a short continuing student application form. Where no new evidence is required we will make an immediate decisions at Registration.

Any questions:

You can phone to speak in confidence to a member of our **Student Services** or **Guidance Team** on **01925 623391** or call in at your convenience. Student Services will be open all summer, Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 3.30 pm.