



### **St Richard Reynolds Catholic High School (Sixth Form)**

**Policy:** 16-19 Bursary Fund

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The 16-19 Bursary Fund exists to offer support to young people who might otherwise find it difficult to participate in full time education. There are two types of bursary available; Vulnerable Student Bursary (A), Discretionary Student Bursary (B).

Bursaries are funded by the ESFA and as such it sets out certain criteria to determine its recipients. The Bursary Fund is intended to support young people with the costs of transport, food, books, educational visits, course materials or equipment essential to their post-16 studies. It is usually given as an “in kind” payment for costs such as course materials, course-related trips, UCAS fee/travel to open days, exam re-sit fees, DBS checks for course-related work experience. For a list of items previously funded, please see Appendix A.

#### **Vulnerable Student Bursary A**

You may apply if you are in one or more of the following groups:

- In care
- Care leaver
- Disabled young person receiving both Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Disability Allowance (DSA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your own name
- In receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence payment in your own name

The maximum amount of support that may be available for you for the academic year is usually £1,200 per student - this is dependent upon the total number of eligible applications, individual need and the size of the fund available. If your eligibility is proven, support will usually be paid to you “in kind” (i.e. we will reimburse or pay for resources/equipment that you require). However, should your attendance, punctuality, progress or behaviour fall below expected standards (a minimum of 96% attendance and 96% punctuality), bursary amounts will be reduced. There may be a delay in any bursary amount if attendance falls below 96% at any point since the previous bursary amount and possible withdrawal of any bursary amounts if attendance does not improve. We will take into account extenuating circumstances which might affect a student's attendance, e.g. caring responsibilities or legitimate illness.

As such, you will be required to complete and submit the Discretionary Student Bursary A application, submitting the required evidence.

## **Discretionary Student Bursary B**

You may apply for consideration for Discretionary Student Bursary B if you have an identifiable financial need but do not fall into the above category. For example, you may apply for this bursary if you are, or have been in the last five years, in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM).

The maximum total amount of support that may be available for the academic year is usually £800 per student – this is dependent upon the total number of eligible applications and the size of the fund available and may therefore be reduced. If your eligibility is proven, support will usually be paid to you “in kind” (i.e. we will reimburse or pay for resources/equipment that you require). However, should your attendance, punctuality, progress or behaviour fall below expected standards (a minimum of 96% attendance and 96% punctuality), bursary amounts will be reduced. There may be a delay in any bursary amount if attendance falls below 96% at any point since the previous bursary amount and possible withdrawal of any bursary amounts if attendance does not improve. We will take into account extenuating circumstances which might affect a student's attendance, e.g. caring responsibilities or legitimate illness.

To apply for the bursary due to previous or current eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM), you will need to prove your (current or previous) eligibility for FSM. If you are currently a resident of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, you will need to apply for FSM. The process is administered through Achieving for Children and full details can be found at [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/free\\_College\\_meals](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/free_College_meals). If you are not a resident of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, you will need to provide proof from your home borough.

If you have another identified financial need, we may ask for other evidence including the last three payslips of the working adults within the household.

As such, you will be required to complete and submit the Discretionary Student Bursary application, submitting the required evidence.

### **How to make a bursary application:**

Complete the 16-19 Bursary Application Form (including details regarding Household Income) and return to the College for the attention of the Sixth Form Manager, along with specified evidence by Friday 8th October 2021. Applications made after this date will be considered, as long as funds are still available.

### **HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

As part of our responsibility to distribute the 16-19 Bursary Fund fairly and appropriately, we are required to use household income to help establish the amount of support we award to each student for all bursaries. This is used in conjunction with other factors, such as distance to travel from the College and the number of dependent children in the household, as well as the actual participation needs the student has. Please refer to the application form for further details.

### **Evidence required**

All applications to access the 16-19 Bursary Fund must be supported by appropriate evidence. Copies of evidence will be retained by the College to provide financial assurance as required.

Acceptable supporting evidence for the Bursary for young people in defined vulnerable groups A will be either a:

- Statement from the Local Authority confirming the young person's current or previous looked after status or;
- Recent Entitlement or Award Statement setting out the benefit to which the young person is entitled

Acceptable supporting evidence for the Discretionary Student Bursary B will be either:

- Confirmation from the Local Authority of entitlement to FSM (Free School Meals);
- Signed declaration from current College showing past entitlement to FSM
- Most recent three payslips of the working adults within the household

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible to receive a Bursary, you must be aged 16, 17 or 18 at 31/08/21 and meet the ESFA residency requirements. If you are not sure whether you are eligible to apply for the bursary or need support with making your application, you should contact the Sixth Form Manager to arrange a confidential conversation to discuss this further.

## **Payments**

Any bursary payments awarded will be via BACS (Banker's Automated Clearing Services) to a Bank Account in your (the student's) name. Students must have a valid account in their name unless there are exceptional reasons which mean an appointee has been named to manage their affairs.

All bursaries will usually be paid "in kind". Such items will be provided to the named individual. In the case of books or equipment they are expected to be returned at the end of the course.

## **Qualifying Condition Requirements**

You will need to complete a qualifying learning period before you are able to receive Bursary benefits. However, you can make an application ahead of the four week qualifying period and in a case of extreme hardship, consideration will also be given for payment in advance of the four week period. Benefits from the Bursary Fund in the case of emergencies can be authorised by the Principal.

To receive any Bursary, you must meet attendance, punctuality, progress and behaviour standards (a minimum of 96% attendance and 96% punctuality). If you do not meet these standards, the College reserves the right to withdraw or suspend your Bursary. These conditions will not be additional to those expected of any other student within the Sixth Form.

## **Exceptions**

There will be occasions when we feel it is appropriate to continue to award a bursary even if a student has fallen below minimum attendance requirements. For example, bereavement, serious illness or injury, sick dependant/family member.

## **Applications**

Applications for a Bursary must be made using the correct Application Form and should be submitted to the Sixth Form Manager in full by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. Applications made after this date will be considered, as

long as sufficient funds are available. However, once the Bursary Fund has been used, it will not be possible to consider further applications.

Consideration will be given to assisting you to make an application if you are unable to do so due to a level of learning difficulty and/or disability. Consideration must also be given to assisting you in making an application if you are not able to provide supporting evidence due to difficulties with engagement or support from your parent/guardian/carer(s).

### **Data**

### **protection**

Please note that all information will be kept confidential and destroyed when no longer required. We will not submit this information to any third party without prior notice.

### **Process**

The named contact at the College for all 16-19 Bursary support/enquiries is Jill Richards (Sixth Form Manager). 5% of the allocated fund will be used towards the administration of the bursaries in accordance with the ESFA 16-19 Bursary Fund Guide for 2020/21. For audit purposes, hard copies of all documentation for the Bursary Fund will be kept for a period of 6 years. This documentation must include evidence of the application process, documents relating to how the student was assessed and the funds/"in kind" support issued/provided.

All applications for a Bursary or to access the contingency fund will be assessed by a 16-19 Bursary Application Panel, consisting of the:

- Business Manager
- Head of Sixth Form
- Sixth Form Manager

The Panel will review the application, supporting evidence and any other personal circumstantial evidence and you will be notified of the outcome within four weeks of receipt.

### **Appeals**

If any young person or their parent/guardian/carer(s) are not satisfied with the outcome of their application, they should refer to the College's Complaints Procedure (available on the College website and by request).

### **Confidentiality**

Applications and supporting evidence will be confidential to the 16-19 Bursary Application Panel and in the event of an appeal, the 16-19 Bursary Appeals Panel. The applications and supporting evidence will remain confidential during processing, payment and storage. If it is necessary to obtain additional information to reach a decision, the young person and/or their parent/guardian/carer(s) will be told the reasons why this is necessary prior to obtaining further information.

### **Equality**

In determining payments of the 16-19 Bursary Fund, students will not be discriminated against on the basis of their protected characteristics. Payments are also subject to the public sector equality duty in section 149(1) of the Equality Act.

### **Change of Financial Circumstances**

If you are in receipt of a Bursary, you have a duty to inform the College should your, or those of your parent/guardian/carer(s), financial circumstances change (e.g. increase in household income that would affect entitlement to Free School Meals). This does not automatically mean any future Bursary amounts will be stopped but would result in a convening of the 16-19 Bursary Application Panel to determine whether the bursary continues or be stopped and the funds redistributed.

### **Transferring to/from SRRCC**

If you are in receipt of a Bursary and transfer out of the College to another education/training provider in-year, the College will liaise with that provider to ensure continuity of Bursary amounts to enable you to complete the learning aim(s). If you are in receipt of a Bursary and transfer into the College from another education/training provider in-year, the College will liaise with that provider to ensure continuity of Bursary amounts to enable you to complete the learning aim(s), subject to available funds.

### **Withdrawal from SRRCC**

If you are in receipt of a Bursary, withdraw from the College, and do not transfer to another education/training provider, Bursary amounts made prior to the date of withdrawal will not be recovered but any future scheduled amounts will not be made.

### **Further Information**

Further national information on the 16-19 Bursary Fund can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2020-to-2021-academic-year>

### **Appendix A**

In previous years, students have made successful applications for the following items:

- Chromebook
- Costs associated with attending university open days/interviews/admissions tests
- Additional reading materials, e.g. periodical subscription
- Specialist clothing or equipment for A Level subjects, e.g. lab coat
- UCAS Registration Fee
- Textbooks
- Costs associated with attending field trips or school trips

Requests for the following items are not usually successful:

- everyday clothing for College
- costs associated with leisure activities or activities not directly related to study