



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Working Together to Secure Success

16 – 19 BURSARY FUND POLICY

Approved by PHGS Local Governing Committee:

March 2024

Date for next Approval:

September 2024

16-19 Bursary Fund

Prince Henry's Grammar School will administer the Bursary Fund awarded within the Education and Skill's Funding Agency's 16 – 19 Bursary Fund Guidelines with the following clarifications:

Eligibility and Awards Criteria

To be eligible to receive a 16 – 19 Bursary in the 2023/24 academic year, the student must be aged under 19 on 31st August 2023 (unless meeting the specific criteria set out by the ESFA), and must meet the residency criteria in ESFA funding regulations for post-16 provision.

Two types of bursary will be available to support young people who commence their study programme in 2023/24.

Vulnerable Bursary:

A bursary of up to £1,200 per annum (pro rata for short courses) is available for students who meet the following criteria:

- in care
- care leavers
- receiving Income Support (IS), or Universal Credit (UC) because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or UC in their own right

Discretionary Bursary:

This may be awarded on an identified needs basis and at the discretion of Prince Henry's Grammar School to cover transport, meals, and any other pre-approved items of essential expenditure associated with being in learning to students who meet the following criteria:

- Under 19 on 31st August 2023 (or over 19 and meeting the specific criteria set out by the ESFA) AND
- Currently in receipt of free school meals OR
- Evidence of household income below £30,000. As each application is individually assessed, there may be some flexibility, eg consideration may be given to the number of dependants in a household.

Evidence of Eligibility Vulnerable

Bursary:

- A letter setting out the benefits to which the young person is entitled
- Written confirmation of current/previous "Looked After" status from the relevant Local Authority
- Leaving Care Review document

Discretionary Bursary:

Evidence of any income/benefits declared on the Bursary Application form will be required (photocopies accepted). Examples of types of acceptable evidence are listed on the form.

A financial assessment will only be required once per academic year. Notwithstanding this, learners must inform school at once of any change in status otherwise money may have to be paid back to the school.

NB: Passing the eligibility threshold does not guarantee funding. The funding available and the nature of the funding request will all be deemed relevant differentiating factors.

Discretionary Bursary Awards Criteria:

Awards will be made at the discretion of the governors according to the following criteria:

1. Level of family income.
2. Nature of the application – priority will always be given to essential curricular requests.
3. The finances available within the fund.

4. Exceptional unforeseen circumstances which would affect the learner's ability to participate in their programme of study

In order to expedite decisions in relation to unforeseen circumstances leading to hardship, the governors have delegated this discretion to the Headteacher and the Assistant Headteacher – Post 16 Learning. Details of any hardship payments made from the bursary will be reported to the Local Governing Committee.

To receive an award, the completed Bursary Fund Application Form and relevant evidence, including tickets/receipts if appropriate must be handed to the Finance Office within 4 weeks of the beginning of the Autumn term, except in emergencies or due to other unforeseen circumstances. Late arrivals/applicants will receive a proportion of the bursary in line with the remaining time of the course. If the Application Form and evidence is presented later than 4 weeks after the beginning of term, payments can only be back-dated up to 4 weeks.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, to continue to receive the awards students must be graded "Expected" or better in terms of attitude in all progress reports, although exceptional circumstances will be taken into account.

If the bursary application is successful, the learner will be awarded:

- £2.75 per day towards meals (no receipts required) to be added onto school dinner card at the beginning of each half term
- Reimbursement of 100% travel costs upon submission of evidence. Eg monthly/weekly travel pass
 - Contributions to travel costs to and from school will not be considered where the travel cost is covered by the Leeds Transport Policy
 - Travel claims must be submitted within 1 month of purchase or they cannot be processed unless there are exceptional circumstances

Other essential items, for example books, equipment or specialist clothing will be considered for reimbursement on a case by case basis. Any such expenditure will need pre-approval from the Assistant Headteacher – Post 16 Learning.

Most purchases made under the Bursary, wherever practicable, remain the property of the school and should be returned to school for future use. Emergency payments should be repaid once alternative support is in place.

In all relevant cases, original receipts must be provided prior to receipt of payment, unless otherwise agreed with the Finance Office.

If there is insufficient funding to meet all requests for bursaries, all awards will be scaled down in proportion e.g. if only 70% of the total money requested can be met, all awards will be scaled down to 70% of the individual amount requested. Payments may not be approved if a student is failing to attend regularly or failing to meet the academic demands/deadlines of their course. Typical criteria might be attitude to study being graded "Expected" or better, and attendance recorded at or above 95%, although exceptional circumstances relating to attendance will be taken into account.

Applications

To apply for a bursary learners must:

- complete a 16 – 19 Bursary Fund application form. Completed applications should be addressed for the attention of the Finance Office.
- Provide documentary evidence of income (photocopies accepted).

Please note

- Incomplete applications will not be processed.
- In most cases applications will be processed within two weeks and applicants will be informed in writing of the decision.
- Payments will be made bank transfer into the student's own bank account other than in exceptional circumstances.
- Secure records will be kept of all awards, receipts and payments for audit purposes.

Appeals

A three stage appeals process exists:

- **Stage 1:** Appeals must be made to the Assistant Headteacher – Post 16 Learning. This will ordinarily simply provide clarification of the Award and eradicate factual errors.
- **Stage 2:** Written appeal to the Head
- **Stage 3:** Written appeal to the Local Governing Committee at which both the applicant and the school have the right to be represented.

At no point in the process will the circumstances of other Bursary awards be discussed for reasons of confidentiality.

Appeals must be made within two weeks of notification of the award decision. If the matter is unresolved, the Appeal Stage 3 will be heard, if necessary, at the next Local Governing Committee meeting where both the school and the applicant involved may be present.

If a Governors' appeal is made, any payment due will occur within two weeks of the decision.

Payment Protocols

- Meals: half termly in advance
- Transport: reimbursed upon submission of the appropriate ticket or receipt, subject to attendance
- Any other items of essential expenditure, pre-authorized by the Assistant Headteacher – Post 16 Learning: receipts required

We recognise that it is not always financially possible for Bursary students to incur expenditure and provide a receipt before receiving any funding and in those instances, students should speak with the Finance Office.