



**DERBY MOOR  
SPENCER ACADEMY**

**16-19**

# **Bursary Fund Guidance**

**Return a completed application form with supporting evidence by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

*This guidance is for 2021-22 and is subject to change for 2022-23*

## Application Guidance 2021-22

PLEASE READ

The bursary fund is available and open to all students to provide financial support to cover the cost of items related to educational participation. All applications/enquiries are dealt with confidentially.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible the young person must be aged under 19 (31<sup>st</sup> August 2021) at the start of the academic year in which they start their programme of study, the young person must satisfy the residency criteria defined in the ESFA funding guidance and must fall into the following categories:

#### **Vulnerable Group**

Students in care, care leavers or young people in receipt of income support (universal credit); and disabled young people in receipt of ESA and DLA/ PIP are eligible to apply for financial support for £1200 per year from the vulnerable group 16-19 bursary fund.

#### **Discretionary Group**

Students experiencing financial difficulty can apply for financial support. Eligibility is determined by means assessment of combined annual household income (to include salary and/or benefits & Universal/ Tax credits) within the threshold limit.

Financial support will be allocated proportionally per year as follows:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Household Income</b>
High Plus	Under £16,190 (eligible for FSM) (Termly Payment)
High	£16,191 to £22,000 (Termly Payment)
Medium	£22,001 to £27,000 (Termly Payment – Lower rate)
Low	£27,001 to £30,000 (Payment on presentation of receipts only)

Once we have confirmed your eligibility, the amount of funding you will be eligible for will be allocated according to need. We will assess your need according to the number of household dependents and the distance the student travels to attend Sixth Form.

Students may apply at any time using other exceptional circumstances which are not dependent on previous years' financial records. Applications to be made directly to Head of Sixth Form in writing for adjudication, that adjudication to be ratified by a member of SLT.

Termly limits will be applied depending on circumstances and the uptake in specific priority groups.

If a student leaves their learning programme or completes their course, they will not be eligible to receive further payment and any overpaid monies may need to be repaid.

**IMPORTANT - Please note that payment figures quoted are subject to change dependent on annual funding and demographic need of students which cannot be pre-determined until enrolment and application to the scheme.**

The Sixth Form cannot supplement the bursary once its funds have been used up and no further student claims will be possible during that academic year.

## **APPLICATION**

Completed forms should be submitted along with the appropriate documented evidence of proof of income and benefits. Confirmation that an application has been successful and level of funding allocation will be communicated by email directly to the student. Applications will be dealt with in order of received date.

The types of evidence that are required in order to assess the households' income:

Salaried income (P60 20/21)/ Accounts/ Self-Assessment 2020-21/ Benefits such as Universal Credit, Personal independent payment, Income support, Job Seeker's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Carer's allowance, Working and/or Child Tax Credit, Grants or Bursaries, Pension allowance– Private / State. Most recent entitlement/award letter (preferably dated within the last 3 months)

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is the expectation and responsibility of parents and students that they are accountable for informing the academy of any changes to their circumstances that may affect their eligibility for continued bursary funding.

### **Application assessment & cut off dates**

To ensure applications are assessed efficiently, applications should be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, with first payment being made in week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Applications submitted after 25<sup>th</sup> November will be assessed on an individual basis.

### **Assessment (Attendance & CFL) & Payment**

In order to make payments to students we need to assess the following criteria:

We use attendance data and Attitude to Learning in class (ATL) and Attitude to Homework (ATH) data from across each term. **The student's attendance must be at least 96%, ATL & ATH grades in all subjects should be Grade 2 (Good) or above or showing significant improvement.** Students must meet their homework and coursework deadlines and be adhering to all aspects of the learner agreement. If a student fails to meet the criteria above, they may not be entitled their bursary payments.

### **How are payments made?**

Payments are made to students only, not a third party. Payments are made by BACS (direct to the bank) so it is important students have their own bank account set up and complete the BACS section of the application form.

The bursary is split into two sections– Block payment every term & Reimbursement.

### **Block Payment**

Part of the student's entitlement will be paid in block payments every term starting in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The amount will depend on their priority group and the number of applicants to the scheme. This will be confirmed by email once all applications have been fully processed in the autumn term.

### **Reimbursement**

We prefer to make payments in kind and encourage the use of the bursary to reimburse students' cost of travel, essential books, equipment or specialist clothing. This can be paid on a reimbursement basis; receipts must be handed into the Sixth Form office in order to have the amount reimbursed. Where a student is unable to make an outright purchase and seek reimbursement, they should contact the Sixth Form office to discuss alternative methods of purchase.

If you are unsure that the bursary would reimburse you for an item you would like to purchase, speak to the Sixth Form Office prior to purchasing the item for clarification.

## **Appeals**

If an application has not been approved, and/or you wish to appeal against any decision, this concern should be addressed to the Head of Sixth Form in writing.

All communications regarding a bursary application and any termly payments/reimbursement payments should only be undertaken via the student and the academy, and no third party.

The Head of Sixth Form reserves the right to authorise payments outside of these criteria where there are extenuating circumstances and/or there is clear educational value in releasing the funds.

## **General Data Protection Regulations**

All supporting evidence will be used to assess whether your child is eligible for the 16-19 bursary. Information is kept confidential and secure subject to the Data Protection Act 2018. Data will only be shared with staff who assess the 16-19 bursary fund and will also be shown to auditors. All evidence will be kept on file for seven years in line with our finance retention schedule. You may see, at any reasonable time, the information kept about you and should correct information that is wrong or misleading.