

# Morecambe Bay Academy Sixth Form

## 16-19 BURSARY FUND 2025-26

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme made available by the Government to help young people facing financial hardship to stay in full time education and participate in their study programme. More information can be found on the link: [www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund](http://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund).

For eligible students the fund can help towards essential course related costs such as travel to and from school, equipment, books, essential trips, school clothing and attending university/job interviews, all relating to your study programme. The 16-19 Bursary Fund is not intended to support costs unrelated to education e.g. living costs, extra-curricular activities where these are not essential to the student's study programme, or provide learning support services that school provide for students such as counselling, mentoring or extra tuition.

The scheme provides bursary payments for 2025-26 and all students who apply for financial support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund must meet the age and residency criteria in order to be eligible, along with the outlined criteria below in respect of the 2 types of bursary available. The Academy also requires the agreed targets including 95% of attendance and good levels of punctuality to lessons, effort and behaviour and adhere to all terms of the Expectations for Sixth Form to be maintained throughout the academic year.

There are 2 types of bursary available to students aged 16 to 19:

- Vulnerable Groups Bursary
- Discretionary Bursary

### **Vulnerable Groups Bursary Fund**

Students who are eligible for a Vulnerable Bursary are students who are in one of the following categories and are unlikely to be receiving financial assistance from parents or carers, meaning they may need a greater level of support to enable them to continue to participate in their study programme. This Bursary can pay up to £1,200 per year for a student participating in a study programme for 30 weeks or more, pro-rata amounts are available for study programmes of less than 30 weeks. The defined vulnerable groups are students where the:

- Young person is in care (the Local Authority providing the care for the young person will confirm this).
- Young person is a care leaver (the Local Authority that looked after the young person will confirm this).
- Young person (not their parent) is receiving Universal Credit (UC) in their own right, 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
- Young person (not their parent) is receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in their own right as well as Universal Credit in their own right.

### **Discretionary Bursary Fund**

The Discretionary Bursary Fund applies to students whose household income is £30,000 or below in the tax year to April 2025. All decisions about which students should receive a discretionary bursary and how much bursary they receive is based on each student's individual circumstances and their actual financial need. These may vary from student to student, depending on, for example; household income, means of travel, distance from the school and the requirements of specific study programme.

Students receiving the Vulnerable Groups Bursary will not be eligible to apply for an additional Discretionary Bursary.

### **Awards for either Vulnerable Groups Bursary and Discretionary Bursary**

- Meal Deal – All students eligible for free school meals will receive a breakfast meal deal and a lunch meal deal at the School Dining Room – options available within the meal deal vary daily
- Support with Educational Visits & Equipment – to cover the cost of accessing an educational visit e.g. field trips, university interviews/open days, or to buy equipment e.g. a scientific calculator, tablet, laptop.
- Travel Support for bus and train journeys (Distance to Sixth Form >6 miles) or payments to support with uniform to ensure you have suitable clothing.
- Study Expenses e.g. text books, study guides and stationery.

Applications are open for Bursary applications from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025. If you feel you are eligible, please ensure your completed application along with supporting evidence is provided as soon as possible in order that your application can be assessed for eligibility. Where bus passes will be provided, these can only be provided from week commencing 15th September, therefore please ensure receipts are obtained for travel expenses to/from the Academy until your bus pass arrives to enable reimbursement to be made to you after your confirmed eligibility and attendance on registers on the relevant travel dates.

Throughout the year you can request equipment or other eligible spend items you require which are relevant to your study programme via the Year Leader, Ms H Fitzwilliams. Please provide electronic links to aid ordering of specific items. Where this is not possible BACS payments will be made to reimburse costs; students must retain receipts for purchases which can be claimed from bursary funding.

### **Bursary Awards Panel**

The 16-19 Bursary Fund Panel will assess applications with Vulnerable Groups Bursary allocations being verified in the first instance, followed by Discretionary Bursary allocations. Assessing students' individual financial needs is an integral feature of the assessment process. The Bursaries Panel will make the final decision on payments relating to these criteria. The Academy will endeavour to assess all applications received at the earliest opportunity with students being notified of the outcome at the earliest opportunity. If your application is approved, you will be notified that the Bursary has been awarded to you. You will then be able to request support for travel, uniform/suitable clothing, equipment and other study related materials/costs. Once you have requested funds, this will be assessed. Please note that requests are not automatically approved.

Any further queries should be formally addressed to the Bursary Panel.

Students who received Bursary Awards in 2024/25 Year 12 will need to re-apply for their Year 13 Bursary Award.

### **Appeals**

Students have the right to appeal against any decision made.

Appeals should be made in writing to the Mrs L Kennedy, Director of Finance, Morecambe Bay Academy within 5 school days of notification of Award decision. Your application will be re-assessed for eligibility within 14 days.

The Academy's decision will be final.

### **Fraudulent Claims**

Where an application is found to have been made on the basis of false declarations the student will be required to repay any funds or benefits provided to them.