

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

Application for Financial Assistance 2020/21 Guidance Notes

GUIDANCE NOTES - What information do I need to supply with this form?

Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned to you for completion. This includes applications with missing evidence, or missing signatures.

Household Income Details – please provide proof of your household income for the period 6th April 2019 to 5th April 2020. Proof of income includes:

- A copy P60 dated after 1st April 2020 showing income details for 2019/20 year.
- Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602) showing income details for year 6 April 2019 to 5 April 2020 (dated after 1 April 2020).
- Three consecutive monthly Universal Credit statements, showing the amount received each month and how the award is made up.
- Proof of benefit (*Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, income-related Employment Support Allowance etc) must be dated within the last three months and show the amount received each week/month.
- Proof of care status: Written confirmation of the student's current or previous looked after status from the local authority which looks after the student or provides their leaving services.

If you are applying for assistance with travel costs, you must provide proof that your local authority is not providing assistance (North Yorkshire only).

You must enclose an account statement, letter or form from your bank or building society that shows your name, sort code, account number, roll number (if applicable) and home address (not your parents bank account details). Payment will always be made to the student, not parent(s)/guardian(s).

Attach good quality copies of your household income evidence.

Where a student or their parent(s)/guardian(s) is unwilling to provide household income evidence or bank account details, no assessment can take place; therefore support will not be available.

Funding is for one year only. Students must reapply for funding at the start of each consecutive academic year where a programme is for more than one year in duration.

College financial assistance is conditional upon satisfactory attendance for all subjects. College financial assistance is also conditional upon satisfactory behaviour, which covers effort, return of homework/ coursework on time and any disciplinary action. Payments will be reduced or withheld due to low attendance.

If we receive your application, with all necessary evidence, before 24th September you will be entitled to receive payment from the start of your course. Applications received after 24th September will be eligible for payment from the date you submit your LSF application with all necessary evidence. We are unable to back-date payments due to late application.

Students will be informed in writing (within 10 working days) of the outcome of their application. At busy periods assessment may take a little longer.

Appeals

Applicants refused support or whose support is withdrawn have the right to appeal. This appeal should be made to Meirion Baker, Assistant Principal within 10 working days of the College's decision. The reason for appeal must be given and any supporting documentation or information must be provided. This will be dealt with in accordance with the College appeals procedure.

Support available

Student Bursary Fund

A bursary of up to £1,200 a year is available for students in the following vulnerable groups: those in care, care leavers, students in receipt of income support or disabled students in receipt of both Universal Credit AND Personal Independence Payment (previously known as income support & employment support allowance and disability living allowance).

A general maintenance grant of up to £550 per year may be available for students where household income is less than £16,000 per annum. A grant of up to £270 per year may be available for students where household income is above £16,001 but less than £25,000 per annum.

Free Meals

Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. For the purposes of eligibility for free meals, "disadvantage" is defined by the students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

Income Support

- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa

Transport Assistance

The College may be able to provide some help towards the cost of travel for students who live more than two miles (straight line) from College and where the household income is less than £35,000 per year.

Where household income is less than £16,190, students may receive assistance of up to £550 per year or, if you live in an area serviced by one of our College buses, a free bus pass to use on one of the College buses. Assistance is available up to £270 per year where the household income is more than £16,190 but less than £25,000 per annum, and up to £210 per year where the household income is more than £25,001 but less than £35,000 per annum, provided you meet all the criteria required.

If you live in North Yorkshire you must apply to your Local Authority for financial assistance with travel costs, and if you are eligible, a bus pass may be available at a reduced rate. You can apply on-line at the North Yorkshire County Council website or telephone 01609 534527 to request an application form. If NYCC refuse your application for support, you can apply to the College for assistance. You will need to provide proof of NYCC's refusal.

Computer Loans

If you do not have a computer at home, the College may be able to lend you one for the duration of your course. Preference is given to students who are receiving financial assistance from the College.

College Students' Association

Each year, the Students' Association sets aside some funds to allocate to College activities and to students suffering particular financial hardship. In cases of hardship, the awarding committee would expect students to apply to other sources of assistance before applying to the Students' Association.

Childcare If you're under 20 and have one or more children, Care to Learn can help with the cost of your childcare and related travel costs while you're learning. You could receive up to £160 per child per week. For more information call the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989 or visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn.