

## Financial Support for Students in 2016-17

### *16-19 Bursary Scheme of £1,200 over two years*

At Carmel College we have a bursary scheme for full time students of all ages. The bursary scheme consists of a number of elements:

#### ***Bursary Targeted***

A bursary of up to £1,200 per year for young people in the following defined vulnerable groups: in care, care leavers, young people in receipt of income support or universal credit (in their own name) and disabled young people in receipt of **both** employment support allowance (or universal credit) and Disability Living Allowance (or personal independence payments). Funding for this group of young people will be held centrally and the College will draw down funds on behalf of eligible students. You can apply for this bursary using the same application form as the General Bursary.

#### ***Bursary General***

The discretionary general award is aimed at financially assisting young people in ways that best fit their needs and circumstances. Awards will be targeted towards those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to participation, such as the costs of transport, meals, books and equipment.

#### ***Free meals***

To be eligible for a free meal in the academic year 2016-17 you must be aged between 16 and 18 on 31 August 2016. If you turn 19 during your year of study you will remain eligible for a free meal until the end of the academic year. Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. For the purposes of eligibility, disadvantaged is defined by the students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

#### ***Eligibility***

Full time students **aged under 19 at the start of the academic year** who satisfy the residency criteria in the EFA Funding Guidance 2016-17 and meet the following household income based criteria may apply:

##### ***You or your parents are in receipt of:-***

- Income support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- Personal Independence Payment
- The guarantee element of state pension credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by HMRC\*
- Universal credit (replacing Income support, income-based job seekers allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and child tax credits)
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

***\*For 2016-17 the College discretionary annual household income threshold should not exceed £22,500 to be eligible for the general bursary. To be eligible for free meals the government threshold for entitlement remains at £16,190.***

#### ***19+ Students***

Students aged 19 and over may be eligible to apply for support from the adult discretionary learner support fund.

#### ***Other help***

- Extra financial support may be available in extenuating circumstances
- Help with childcare payments - If you have a child you can apply for Care to Learn funding via the Student Bursary Support Services (SBSS) on-line portal. The on-line portal is accessible via most web-enabled devices (PC, laptop or tablet). Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet you can contact the Student Bursary Support Service on helpline 0800 121 8989.

### ***Assessment and payment of bursaries***

Receipt of a targeted bursary or a general bursary is conditional on the student meeting agreed standards set by the College, including targets relating to attendance and/or standards of behaviour.

### ***Administration and distribution of Awards***

Applications and guidance for 2016-17 are available for download from the College website under the tab 'How we support you' then 'financial support'. A Bursary Panel will assess your application and you will be notified of the decision within 10 working days of receipt of the form. The targeted bursary will be payable over ten monthly payments subject to students meeting their targets. The general award will be payable termly subject to students meeting their targets. All payments will be made directly into student bank accounts via BACS payment. General award payments may vary depending upon individual financial circumstances. Assistance with the cost of student transport will be a priority.

### ***Equal Opportunities***

The College will not discriminate against students on the basis of protected characteristics as defined in equalities legislation, section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

### ***Appeals***

Students will have the right of appeal against Bursary Panel decisions via the College appeals process.