



16-19 Bursary Fund & Further Education Free Meals –2026 / 2027

Wherever possible, Wyke 6th Form College will seek to provide financial assistance to those most in need to enable a student to continue and complete their programme of study. Three types of award are available:

Vulnerable Bursary

Students who qualify for this can receive a bursary of up to £1200 for the academic year. Students will receive the amount they actually need to participate, and this will be provided in the form of a meal allowance, travel pass, and items needed for accessing their study programme. You are eligible to apply if you fall into one of the categories below. Your bursary will be assessed based on your individual circumstances, and we are unable to confirm exactly what you are eligible to receive from the bursary until we receive your application.

- currently living in care, including unaccompanied asylum-seekers
- a care leaver*
- receiving Universal Credit because you are financially supporting yourself or financially supporting yourself and someone who is dependent on you and living with you such as a child or partner
- receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in your own right **in addition to** Universal Credit in their own right

defined as a young person aged 16 and 17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16; or a young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods of 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16.

Discretionary Award

Financial support may still be available in the form of the Discretionary Award if you do not qualify for a vulnerable bursary but face financial hardship whilst attending the College. The following factors will be considered to determine whether you are eligible for financial assistance:

- your total, gross household income* is below £36,000 (this will be the income of your parents/guardians if that is who you live with)
- if you are a young parent**
- if you live independently but are not in receipt of PIP or Universal Credit

Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Child Benefit and DLA (Disability Living Allowance) are disregarded as income for the purposes of eligibility for the Discretionary Award but levels of Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits (or the Universal credit equivalents) **will be taken into account when making the assessment.*

*** A young parent is defined as a student whose baby has been registered and the student is named on the birth certificate*

All Discretionary awards are initially provided to cover the costs of meals **and/or** travel (dependent on income) to get to and from College. Additional support to help with the cost of essential items can be requested and will be subject to individual circumstances and the overall availability of funds.

The College will also consider individual circumstances when making the award, for example, whether the student receives guaranteed free meals, whether the young person lives in a single parent household, or if there are other children or young people living in the household.

Further Education Free Meals

Students who are in receipt of, or have parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits will qualify for guaranteed free meals. A discretionary award may be provided alongside this, dependent on levels of total household income and appropriate evidence being provided with the application.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) ** If your young person was in receipt of a 'free school meal' at school, under the Government transitional protection arrangements they may still be eligible for a 'free meal' at College subject to the provision of the correct supporting evidence.

Application Process

If you think that any of the above applies to you and you are not yet enrolled at the College, you can download an [Application Form](#) from our website from 5th **May** onwards, request a form before or during Wyke Start or Enrolment from the main office, or send an e-mail to bursaryapplications@wyke.ac.uk. Students who are already enrolled can ask their tutor to request a financial support form or request one from the main office. Completed application forms and supporting evidence are submitted to the main office.

The College welcomes applications from students throughout the year. However, to ensure that the funds are used most effectively, we would encourage applications to be submitted as soon as possible after enrolment and no later than the end of September. As far as possible, all applications will be processed and students advised of the outcome within two weeks of receipt, although at peak times this may take a little longer.

Travel passes and meals allowances will only be in place at the start of term if the application is submitted by **31st July** with **all the correct supporting evidence** and is assessed as successful.

The date of submission of the application is the date that all appropriate evidence is received even if parts of the application were received earlier. Once you have completed the form, it can be emailed to bursaryapplications@wyke.ac.uk, along with scans or pictures of the relevant evidence; the form and evidence can also be handed into the main office. You will then receive further details about the progress of your application from the Assessment Team. Please do not submit originals of supporting evidence, a clear scan, picture or photocopy is sufficient.

Appeals about the outcome of an application should be made in writing to Chris Herring (Vice Principal).

Attendance & Awards

Students are expected to maintain attendance of 95% or above. Attendance will be monitored and if attendance falls below this threshold it may affect the amount of the bursary that is awarded.

Guidance Notes for Students/Parents on use of awards made from 16-19 Bursary Fund – 2026 – 2027

If your application is successful, these are the options available.

Discretionary award

- Annual travel costs, **and/or**
- Meal costs of a minimum of £4 a day for the full academic year*

Tier 1 – total household income less than £27,000 both a travel pass **and** meal allowance for use in college. **Please specify if travel is not required.**

Tier 2 – total household income more than £27,001 but less than £36,000 either a travel pass **or** meal allowance for use in college. You **must** indicate which would be most beneficial to you, should your application be successful. **Failure to do so will lead to a delay in receiving the award.** Students living in the Hull travel zone do not need a bus pass to travel and can pay cash or contactless card payment each way on the bus. Students travelling within this zone should consider choosing a meal allowance dependent on circumstances.

The College will also consider individual circumstances when making the award, for example, whether the students receive guaranteed free meals, whether the young person lives in a single parent household, or if there are other children or young people living in the household. Depending on how many applications are received, if enough funds are available, students in some circumstances may be able to receive both travel and meals later when funds are reviewed.

Students who qualify for the above award are also able to request assistance with other items such as equipment, books, re-sit fees, UCAS entrance fees and limited support for essential educational visits. This is only available for visits that are an essential part of the subject curriculum and not for any visits or trips which are optional. The availability of extra funds will be dependent on individual circumstances, maintaining an attendance level of above 95% and the number of applications that are received at the start of the academic year. Any student who does not have an attendance level of 95% or above will not be able to access any additional bursary support.

Vulnerable bursary - up to £1200 for a full academic year, which can incorporate the following items based on individual circumstances:

- An annual travel pass.
- A meal allowance of a minimum of £4 a day for the full academic year*
- An individual assessment will be made to determine what other financial support is needed and can be provided from the vulnerable bursary. This will be provided in the form of assistance for additional items that are needed for the study programme and no actual payments will be made. It is outside the scope of the bursary to provide any payments for living costs.

Free meals award

- A meal allowance of a minimum of £4 a day for the full academic year*

Requests to use bursary funds for other items should be made in advance to financialsupport@wyke.ac.uk. Reimbursement for items already purchased will only be made if prior approval was given. Please give 5 working days' notice in advance of any deadlines for payment, or we will not be able to guarantee that payments can be made in time.

**For the academic year 26-27 a full year equates to 39 weeks. Meal allowances may be provided at a higher amount depending on the funding we have available, but we will always guarantee a minimum of £4.*

All funds awarded must be used in the academic year in which they have been awarded. Any unused amounts will not be transferred or refunded.

Awards are based on maintaining a minimum actual attendance level of 95% (excluding authorised absences), failure to maintain this level will affect the amount received.

Additional Forms of Financial Support

Wyke College Support Fund

The Wyke Support Fund is a further way in which the college supports all students to be able to access their education. The Fund is made up of voluntary donations by parents and staff. The funds are used to ensure that students in financial difficulty have access to the equipment they need, can access events such as trips and speakers that will significantly improve their education and get help to attend activities supporting their next steps such as university open events. If you are not eligible for the College bursary, need financial support with something to support your education that is outside the scope of the bursary, or are in significant financial difficulty, you can apply for support from the support fund by emailing financialsupport@wyke.ac.uk with full details of your circumstances and the financial support that is required. We will then be able to assess if the support fund can support you.

19+ Awards

If you are a student who is starting a new course aged 19+ on 31st August 2026, you will not be eligible for the 16-19 bursary. Please contact the College separately to discuss your options for financial support.

Care to Learn

If you are under 20, Care to Learn could help pay towards your childcare and travel costs while you are learning. Care to Learn can help with the cost of your childcare, including deposit and registration fees, a childcare taster session for up to 5 days, keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays, taking your child to their childcare provider.

Connexions Service

Hull Connexions Centre, Kenworthy House
98 – 104 George Street, Hull HU1 3DT
Tel: 01482 615 223

Targeted Youth Support

Kenworthy House, 98 – 104 George Street
Hull, HU1 3DT
Tel: 01482 615 602

Care to Learn – learner support helpline

0800 121 8989
<https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>
Email: C2L@studentbursarysupport.co.uk

Student Finance England (Advanced Learner Loans)
<https://www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england>
PO Box 210, Darlington, DL1 9HJ, Telephone: 0300 100 0607

This policy is correct at the time of going to print and is subject to change if government 16-19 bursary fund guidance is updated following initial policy approval.