



BISHOP HEBER HIGH SCHOOL

RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT

September 2026

REF: Financial support of up to £1200* per year available for Sixth Form students

Dear Students & Parents/Carers,

Students in the Sixth Form who meet certain eligibility criteria **may** be able to access financial support to enable them to have fair and equal access to their Level 3 learning programme (A levels / BTEC etc). The appropriate financial support scheme depends on whether you live in England or Wales.

Students who live (or live the majority of time) in England:

Full details of the 16-19 bursary fund can be found in our policy here: [Bishop-Heber-High-School-16-19-Bursary-Policy-2026-27.pdf](#) and the Department for Education guidance here: [16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

Potential financial support of £1200+ p.a.* is available to eligible students from the 16 to 19 bursary fund. The fund is intended to support students aged 16 to 19 in overcoming specific financial barriers to participation so they can remain in education. There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- 1) Bursaries for defined vulnerable groups; and
- 2) Discretionary bursaries (specific additional eligibility criteria decided by the School).

We use the fund to provide students with support to fund the costs of transport, books, laptop/IT equipment, other course-related equipment/costs, field trips, the cost of attending open days / post-18 activities.

* No student will automatically be awarded an amount of funding without an assessment of the level of actual financial need they have. Applicants will be required to complete a financial assessment form to detail their specific funding need.

Additional Information:

- Eligibility for both types of bursary is based on your age, study programme and residency.
- In summary, those who may be eligible for the **'defined vulnerable groups'** bursary are those students defined as being in care (not privately fostered), care leavers or receiving Universal Credit **in their own name**.
- In summary, those who may be eligible for a **'discretionary bursary'** are those who either live in a lower-income household (household income inc. benefits is less than £33,700 p.a.), in a single-parent family, those with one or more dependent siblings, those with additional responsibilities (e.g. young carer), those who travel greater than 3 miles to the School.
- Full eligibility criteria for both types of bursary can be found in the policy linked above.
- All applications must be supported by appropriate evidence as indicated on our application form.
- Application forms can be collected from the Finance Office.
- Those who are awarded a bursary may receive payments in kind for items such as travel passes, books, equipment, field trips etc. and/or half-termly BACS payments to the student's own bank account.



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- Students must reapply for the 16-19 bursary fund each academic year, with a new financial assessment completed.
- Students who do not satisfy any of the criteria listed in this section, but who are able to demonstrate financial hardship arising from other reasons, may also apply for an ad-hoc discretionary bursary. The school will retain a proportion of the 16-19 bursary grant funding to cover unforeseen hardship that may arise during the academic year. In the first instance, students or parents/carers should contact Mrs M Nesbitt, Business Manager to discuss their circumstances.

Students who live (or live most of the time) in Wales:

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment of £40 to help 16 to 18 year olds with the costs of further education. Payments are made every 2 weeks as long as you meet your school or college's attendance requirements.

The 'Little book of EMA' for 2026-27 contains everything you need to know, including eligibility criteria and how to apply: [Education Maintenance Allowance, funding for Further Education | Student Finance Wales](#) (Search: *Little Book of EMA 2026*).

Notes:

- Eligibility is based on your age, nationality/residency, course type, and household income, as well as maintaining an attendance of 95% or greater (unless there are exceptional circumstances).
- The EMA application form for 2026/27 is available online, but if you do not have access to a printer, we have copies in school that you can pick up from the Finance Office. You will need to sign your agreement in school for payments to commence.
- you must apply within 13 weeks of the start of your course to be eligible for backdated payments to the start of term.

If you have any further questions or require any additional information, then please do contact Mrs M Nesbitt, Business Manager via email: mnesbitt@heber.org.uk in the first instance.

Kind regards,

Mr J Garnham
Assistant Headteacher – Director of Sixth Form