

EMA & 16-19 BURSARY POLICY – 2011/12

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme closed to new applicants on 1st January 2011 and from September 2011, EMA is to be replaced with a new bursary scheme. Students aged between 16 and 19 years facing financial hardship whilst in full-time education, may receive a bursary.

Schools, colleges and training providers have been given responsibility for awarding bursaries to students, and for most, this will include decisions on the amount, when it is paid and the criteria for payments.

Mascalls School is committed to providing a fair and consistent policy for Bursary awards.

Transitional EMA Funding

Students currently in receipt of EMA funding will be notified by EMA of any continuing allowance or cessation of maintenance.

2009-2010 applicants: Students will continue to receive funding at the present rate until the end of 2011-12.
2010-2011 applicants: Students in receipt of the top rate (£30) will receive £20 per week in 2011-12. Students will not generally be eligible for Level 3 bursary funding if in receipt of EMA. Students in receipt of a lesser rate of EMA (below £20), will be notified by EMA of any changes to their allowances and should circumstances have changed during the year, there may be the possibility of re-applying direct to EMA. Students whose EMA ceases would be able to apply for the Bursary, subject to eligibility.

Mascalls Bursary (MB)

Eligibility

Students must be aged under 19 on 31st August in the academic year in which they start their programme of study and must satisfy YPLA residency criteria.

Students must also satisfy the following conditions during receipt of the MB:

- The student must not have unauthorised or unexplained absence from lessons/school
- The student must not have broken the terms of the Sixth Form expectations and entry criteria

Levels of Bursary Payments

Level One: £1,200 per annum

Criteria: Students in care, care leavers, students in receipt of income support and disabled young people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance who are also in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Exceptions: Where students are in receipt of transitional support arrangements via EMA, the bursary funding will be limited to the difference between the allowance received and the MB offered, either by non-authorisation of weekly EMA, or providing the MB on a pro-rata basis.

Payment: Payable in 3 equal instalments of £400 in the autumn, spring and summer terms. The MB will be repayable by the student on a pro-rata basis, should the recipient leave Mascalls during the academic year of eligibility.

Level Two: £800 per annum

Criteria: Students in receipt of Free School Meals or means-tested benefits.

Exceptions: Where students are in receipt of transitional support arrangements via EMA, the bursary funding will be limited to the difference between the allowance received and the MB offered, either by non-authorisation of weekly EMA, or providing the MB on a pro-rata basis.

Payment: Students apply for funds for Specific Educational Purposes (see below). The MB Panel will assess each claim and authorise payments up to the permitted maximum in each term, dependent upon individual circumstance and number of applications received. The MB will be payable in 3 instalments of a maximum of £300 in each of the autumn and spring terms and £200 in the summer terms. Payments can also be made 'in-kind' for direct Special Educational Purposes requirements.

The MB will be repayable by the student on a pro-rata basis, should the recipient leave Mascalls during the academic year of eligibility.

Level Three: Up to a maximum of £200 per academic year

Criteria: Students with an identifiable financial need who do not fall into Levels 1 or 2 above.

Exceptions: Where students are in receipt of EMA, the bursary funding will be limited to the difference between the allowance received and the MB offered, if applicable.

Payment: Students apply for funds for Specific Educational Purposes (see below). The MB Panel will assess each claim and authorise payments up to the permitted maximum in each term, dependent upon individual circumstance and number of applications received. Awards may be provided on a match-funded basis. The MB will be repayable by the student on a pro-rata basis, should the recipient leave Mascalls during the academic year of eligibility. Payments will be made via cheque to the student and can also be made 'in-kind' for direct Special Educational Purposes requirements.

Special Educational Purposes

Costs of Transport

Meals in School

Books and Equipment

Educational Trips

Application Process

Students should apply for the MB as soon as possible after admission in September for Year 12 and for Year 13 eligible students, as soon as possible after AS results in August, by completing the application form available from the Sixth Form Office, or Mascalls website.

The MB panel will assess applications in September, January and May each year to confirm, review and/or authorise ongoing payments.

Important Note

It may be necessary for identification of financial need to see evidence from the student and/or student's family. This may include a letter setting out the benefit to which the student is entitled or written evidence (if previously unknown) of the student's current or previous looked-after status from the local authority.

It may also be necessary to take into account the student's household income as evidenced by receipt of benefit and/or P60, Tax Credit Award Notice or evidence of self-employment income.

Further Information

In addition to the support that is available directly to young people through the 16-19 bursary scheme, all families of 16- to 19-year-olds who are in full-time, non-advanced, education such as A Levels or BTECs are entitled to £20.30 child benefit a week for their eldest child and £13.40 a week for each other child. Young people may also be entitled to other benefits such as Care to Learn, income support or housing benefit.

A factsheet for young people, outlining the details of the bursary scheme is at www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport/a0077824/the-16-19-bursary-scheme

A set of questions and answers for young people and parents is at http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/ypla-16-19_Bursary_Fund_QA_for_Young_People_and_Parents-br-Jun11-v1.pdf