

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT VARNDEAN COLLEGE

## FOR 16-18 YEAR OLDS 2018/2019

Each year the College receives an allocation of funds to support its learners aged 16-18. Learners who are 18 at the start of the course but turn 19 during the academic year (ie after 31<sup>st</sup> August) are also eligible. The government has also extended it's Free School Meals programme to Sixth Form and FE colleges.

These funds are intended to support students who face financial barriers to participation in education.

The funds are split into Bursary, Free College Meals and Discretionary Learning Grant.

The Bursary and Free College Meals are an entitlement and guaranteed if the student meets the criteria.

The Discretionary Learning Grant is a fixed allocation of money from the government. The College is responsible for determining the eligibility of applicants to this fund and for deciding the amount each student should receive. The College will aim to distribute the funds fairly with regard to the needs of the individual student. This fund is Means Tested and the threshold is a household income below £27000 or financial circumstances that have changed significantly during the year.

Students in Care or who are Care Leavers, students living independently and in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit or Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right, are eligible for a Bursary of £1200 paid in monthly intervals across the academic year

Students who are awarded Free College Meals will have money put on their College ID card to use in the canteen (£2.41 a day based on each timetabled day); they will also be automatically awarded the Discretionary Learning Grant.

**Depending on your priority grouping and funds available we may be able to help with:**

**Travel** – for students living more than 2 miles from College

**Art Contributions and Essential Trips**

**College Meals**

**Exam Resits**

**University Visits and UCAS fees**

**Additional costs** - help with other costs such as sports kit, equipment, stationery etc

The chart on the next page shows the priority groups and the evidence needed to accompany the application form.

**If you have any queries please contact us on 01273 546636**

## Are you eligible?

Priority Group	Who qualifies	Evidence required
1. Bursary of £1200	<p><b>Those:</b>            In Care or Care Leavers.            In receipt of Income support or Universal Credit, who are living independently of parents/guardians.            In receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right.</p>	<p>Letter confirming Care/Care Leaver status from Social Services or Support Worker.</p> <p>Statement or letter showing proof of Income Support or Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, dated within 3 months of start of course.</p>
2. Free College Meals & Discretionary Learning Grant	<p><b>Those in receipt of:</b>            Income Support.            Universal Credit (where the household income is less than £7,400).            Income based Jobseekers Allowance.            Employment and Support Allowance.            Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax element) and a household income below £16,105.            Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit).            Guaranteed Element Of State Pension Credit.            Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act.</p>	<p>Evidence of one of the means tested benefits stated, dated within 3 months of start of course.</p> <p>TC602 (Tax Credit Notice – most current 2018/19 Award Notice).</p>
3. Discretionary Learning Grant	<p><b>Those in receipt of:</b>            Child Tax Credit with household income below £16,105 and where there is a Working Tax element.            Contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance.            Universal Credit (where the household income is more than £7,400).</p>	<p>TC602 (Tax Credit Notice - most current 2018/19 Award Notice).</p> <p>Evidence of one of the means tested benefits stated, dated within 3 months of start of course.</p>
4. Discretionary Learning Grant	<p><b>Those in receipt of:</b>            Child/Working Tax Credit Award Notification with a household income below £27,000.</p>	<p>TC602 (Tax Credit Notice - most current 2018/19 Award Notice).</p>
5. Discretionary Learning Grant	<p>Those whose financial and personal circumstances have recently changed.</p>	<p>Evidence of income – ie. bank statements, 3 months of pay slips, P60 and a covering letter.</p>

Funds for priority groups 2-5 are limited so early application is advisable

Application forms can be obtained from the Registry or downloaded from [https://varndean.ac.uk/financial\\_support](https://varndean.ac.uk/financial_support)

If you have any queries please contact us on 01273 546636