

# Sixth Form Bursary Fund 2015-16

Ashcroft Technology Academy (ATA) seeks to provide financial assistance for eligible 16-19 year olds in full time education, through entitlement to central government funding known as the 16-19 Bursary Fund. This is known as the Sixth Form Bursary Fund at Ashcroft Technology Academy (ATA). The Fund is designed to target those who are deemed to be disadvantaged and most in need of financial support during their Sixth Form education.

The Sixth Form Bursary Fund is formed of two elements.

- 1) **Vulnerable Student Bursary payments** are available to those students who find themselves within one of the four qualifying exceptional categories detailed below. Students subject to any of these will be eligible to receive a Bursary of £1200 per annum. The categories are:
  - *young people in public care,*
  - *recent care leavers,*
  - *young people directly in receipt of income support or Universal Credit in place of Income Support (not via their parents) and*
  - *disabled students in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Universal Credit in place of Employment Support Allowance.*
  
- 2) **Discretionary Bursary payments** will be available to students from low-income households who qualify for free school meal entitlement. The free school meal eligibility criteria may apply if you or your parents/guardians are entitled to receive one or more of the following:
  - *Income Support*
  - *Income Based Jobseekers Allowance*
  - *An income-related employment and support allowance*
  - *Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
  - *The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*
  - *Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190*

The funds for the Sixth Form Discretionary bursaries are paid directly to the Academy through the Department for Education. The Academy will therefore implement the scheme to fully utilise the funds available, in a manner deemed most effective and in a way that best suits our students. Separate application is made for claiming any Vulnerable Student bursaries.

Bursary payments will be made at regular intervals during terms 1 to 4 and on completion of examinations in term 5. A list of payment decisions will be retained by the members of the Sixth Form Management Team and can be checked with staff approximately a week prior to payment. A list of payment dates for the 2015/16 academic year will be located on the Bursary notice board and the information screens.

In order to receive the Discretionary Bursary, parents/guardians will need to complete an Application for Student Support. Students can collect these forms on behalf of parents/guardians from either Mr Anson or Mrs Bell in the Sixth Form Office. The Academy will check student free school meal entitlement with the local authority.

If your Son/Daughter meets one or more of the criteria for the Vulnerable Student Bursary please contact the Academy to receive further information on supplying the Academy with the appropriate evidence.

All eligible students will receive a copy of the ATA Bursary Policy and Contract. This document will need to be signed by both students and parents/guardians before students can receive Bursary payments.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Mr Anson or Mrs Bell at the Academy.

Yours sincerely

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