



**Further Education
Financial Support
2026-27**

Guidance for Further Education Financial Support 2026-27

Askham Bryan College recognises that there are costs associated with accessing education and we will do our utmost to help students within the funds that the College has available from the Government.

All students applying for financial assistance must be studying a Further Education course for the academic year September 2026 to June 2027, it can be an Entry Level 1, 2, or 3 or a Level 1, 2, or 3 qualifications.

How to Apply: -

Applications for financial support can be completed **online via the link on the Askham Bryan College website**.

If you are unable to complete the online application, please contact:

Email: **Bursaries@askham-bryan.ac.uk**

Phone: **01904 772271**

Applications for college bursaries cannot be processed without the supporting evidence. For all bursaries, the supporting evidence provided with your application must relate to the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. If evidence for an incorrect year is submitted, the application will not be assessed until the correct documentation has been received.

To ensure that support is in place for the start of the academic year, applications must be received by **31st July 2026**. The closing date for applications is **30th September 2026** applications received after this date may still be assessed if funds remain available.

Please note that the College **cannot** make any payments or purchase any equipment until you have enrolled and are attending your programme of study. This means that you may need to wait several weeks to receive your equipment or first payment.

Evidence required to support bursary applications includes: -

- A copy of a Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN) for 2025/26 **all** the pages must be included, showing household income and figures for child tax credit and/or working tax credits. If you are uploading photos of these documents the full page must be visible.
- P60 for April 2026 to evidence salary or a copy of three wage slips for February 2026, March 2026 and April 2026.

- If the household is in receipt of Universal Credit, we require a copy of 3 full recent monthly statements confirming the amount received, and breakdown of the entitlement. A screen shot of the monthly payment is not satisfactory.
- Confirmation of the benefits the household is in receipt of, a recent (within 3 months) benefit entitlement/ award letter must be provided for each benefit and the amount you receive.
- Certified accounts if self-employed or a copy of your tax return for April 2026.
- Evidence of a household member attending university, including a confirmation letter from the University or a letter from Student Finance England for the academic year 2025-26, which will reduce household income by 50%.
- **BURSARY APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ASSESSED WITHOUT THE CORRECT EVIDENCE.**

Please refer to our Bursaries Evidence guide for further information regarding the evidence which needs to be provided to support an application.

The Financial support Available includes: -

Residential Bursaries

The **Residential Bursary Fund** supports students on land-based programmes of study that require a residential element.

Full-time Further Education students may apply for a residential grant if they meet the following criteria:

- Live **more than 15 miles from the College** and there is **no nearer college offering the same study programme,**
OR
- The **journey to college takes more than two hours using public transport,**
AND
- The **total household income is less than £35,000 per year.**

Students must also:

- Have a **confirmed place on a Level 2 or Level 3 Further Education course at the College,**
and
- Have **resided in England for at least three years.**

There are a **limited number of residential awards**, which are allocated **on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Applications must be completed **online via the College website.**

Applicants will be required to **declare their household income and provide supporting evidence** as part of the application process.

Please note that the Residential Bursary will not cover the full cost of accommodation. Any remaining balance must be paid by the student or their family and may be paid in instalments over the academic year.

Students may choose the type of accommodation they wish to live in; however, it must be located on the College campus.

Residential Bursary Awards are made according to Household income; awards are based on a sliding scale: -

Gross Household Income	Award
Up to £25,000	£4602
£25,999 to £30,000	£3069
£30,999 up to £35,000	£1533.
Over £35,999	No award

No residential grant will be awarded without the household income evidence. To ensure the financial support is in place for the start of the academic year the closing date for the Residential Bursary applications is **31st July 2026**.

If you have provided the required evidence, your application will be examined and processed according to the college criteria. You will normally be informed in writing of the result of your application within **28 days**.

Discretionary Bursaries

The Discretionary Bursary offers financial support to students who are on a full or part time **further education** study programme; the bursary supports learners to overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

Discretionary support available Includes: -

Travel Support

The discretionary bursary can help with the cost of transport to and from college including: -

- **College Bus Access:**

Students who can access the college bus will be provided with a voucher code to purchase an annual college bus pass. Students **must** apply for travel support **before the start of their course**. Those who apply after this deadline will need to purchase a ticket or set up a direct debit themselves and provide a copy of their receipt to the bursary office to enable a refund. The college **will not refund any flex tickets** purchased for students who apply after the deadline.

- **Public Transport:**

Students who are unable to access college transport can request support towards the cost of their public transport; students will be asked to provide confirmation of these costs with a copy of receipts/ travel tickets before any payments are set up.

- **Taxi Travel:**

We cannot fund taxi transport for learners unless they have an identified Special Educational Need (SEN), EHCP or a medical condition that requires this support, parents must contact their Local Authority regarding this in the first instance. At present, we do not have the funding available to provide taxi transport outside of these circumstances.

- **Fuel:**

Students are expected to use College transport or public transport where available. If a student is unable to access these transport options, the College may offer a discretionary contribution towards fuel costs.

As bursary funds are limited, each learner is eligible for support towards one form of transport only. This will be provided as either a college transport pass or a public bus pass, depending on individual circumstances.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Course Kit

The college can provide support for essential personal protective equipment (PPE) and course materials, essential items are determined by your Section / Course Manager, and the essential items will be listed in your award letter, usually this includes overalls and steel toe capped boots.

- **Refunds:**

If you buy **essential** items in advance, you can be refunded. You must provide a copy of your receipt for the refund to be processed. Refunds are given once you are enrolled on the course of study.

- **Ordering PPE:**

If you do not have the funds to purchase essential items, the college can order them for you if required, you must notify the bursaries office if this is required.

- **Definition of Essential:**

Only items **necessary to participate in your course** are considered essential. Items that are “nice to have” rather than essential are not covered.

Course Trips

The bursary will only cover **compulsory** course trips and visits. A trip is considered compulsory if it involves activities directly related to the student’s course and if not attending would negatively impact their ability to complete the course because they form a mandatory part of the programme.

Free College Meals

This entitlement is for learners who are in full time **Further Education** at Askham Bryan College and its centres. Students must be aged between 16 and 18 years on 31st August 2026. If a student turns 19 during the academic year, they will remain eligible for free meals until the end of the academic year.

Students aged between 19 and 25 years old who are subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) will also be entitled to free meals whilst at the College, **providing they meet the household income eligibility criteria** and can provide evidence to support this.

Eligibility Criteria

If the household is in receipt of any of the benefits listed below and the income is below **£16,190**, the student may be eligible for free meals. You must complete a bursary application form and provide evidence in order for your free meal entitlement to be approved.

Evidence Required:

- Jobseekers Allowance income based
- ESA – income related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credits (you cannot be in receipt of Working tax credits)
- Universal Credit (you must provide 3 recent statements; earnings must be under £7,400 pa to qualify)
- A recent letter from the Local Authority confirming entitlement.

Vulnerable Learner Bursary

This is for students who are aged between 16-19 and in one of the defined vulnerable groups: -

- **Young person who is currently in care /or a Looked after child**

This is a learner that is looked after by the Local Authority on a voluntary basis (Section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or under a Care Order (Section 31 of the Children Act 1989)

- **Care leaver**

This is 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 amounting to 13 weeks) which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 18.

- **Young person who is in receipt of Income Support / or Universal Credit in their own right**

This shows that the young person is financially supporting themselves and anyone else who is dependent on them.

- **Disabled young people who receive both Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independent Payment (PIP) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA)**

Students may be eligible to receive up to **£1,200 per academic year**, depending on their financial circumstances and their individual needs to participate in their course. Students will be required to provide details of their specific requirements; the full £1,200 is **not automatically awarded**.

If a student is awarded a bursary and travels to college using a **college bus**, the bursary will cover the cost of the annual bus pass. Students using **public transport** must provide supporting evidence, such as tickets or receipts, for financial support to be put in place.

The bursary may also be used to purchase **essential course equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)** required for the course. It **cannot be used for non-essential items**.

Evidence required to support a Vulnerable Learner Application:

You will need to provide one or more of the below, depending on your individual circumstances to qualify for the Vulnerable Learner Bursary.

- Written confirmation from the Local Authority of students current looked after or leaving care status (confirming the student meets the criteria as above) the Social Worker will also have to list what the young person's course related costs are within the letter.
- A recent letter confirming that the young person is in receipt of Income Support stating the amount they have been awarded.
- Copies of 3 recent monthly Universal Credit Statements, it must be a copy of the full statement showing the breakdown of the entitlement.
- A recent letter to confirm that the young person is in receipt of both DLA / PIP **and** ESA the letter has to also state the amount awarded.

All awards are dependent on the student's course related costs. Applicants should provide details of the costs they have identified in their application. Please note that applications must be submitted prior to enrolment if you are wanting assistance towards college transport. If a student is awarded a bursary and travels to college using a college transport pass, the cost of that pass will automatically be deducted from their bursary award, to cover the cost of the pass.

Food cards and personal protective equipment can be purchased by the College out of the monies awarded. Refunds can be given for equipment purchased once the student has enrolled on the course, you must be able to provide receipts to support a claim.

Money can also be put aside for compulsory educational visits, please speak to Student Services in advance of any trip to discuss this.

Childcare Funding

Care to Learn (for students aged between 16-20)

Students may be able to claim childcare costs of up to £180 per child, per week while attending college, and when attending a compulsory placement. We would need written confirmation from your work placement confirming the date, time and duration of the placement. If you are under 20 at the start of your course and you are the main carer for your child and in receipt of Child benefit you may be eligible for funding towards your childcare. Please email: Bursaries@askham-bryan.ac.uk for further information.

College Childcare Grant (for students aged 20+)

If you are over 20 years of age at the beginning of your full time Further Education course, you may be eligible for a grant to assist you with your childcare costs. Household income must be below £35,000. You must complete the Childcare Funding application form and provide the supporting documentation required.

The College can fund up to 85% of childcare costs. This payment will be made directly to the Childcare provider who must be Ofsted registered. The certificate of registration must be sent as evidence with the application form. To request an application please contact Bursaries@askham-bryan.ac.uk