



Student Finances

• **Child Benefit when your child turns 16**

- Child Benefit stops on the 31st August on or after your child's 16th birthday if they leave education or training. It continues if they stay in approved education or training (see the information below) but you must tell the Child Benefit Office.
- You'll be sent a letter in your child's last year of compulsory education at school (Year 11) asking you to confirm their plans.

Approved education

- Education must be full-time (more than an average of 12 hours a week supervised study or course-related work experience) and can include:
- A levels or similar - International Baccalaureate, NVQs and other vocational qualifications up to [level 3](#)

Approved training

Approved training should be unpaid and can include:

- Study programme and traineeships
- Courses that are part of a job contract are not approved.

Apply for an extension

- You could get Child Benefit for 20 weeks (called an 'extension') if your child leaves approved education or training and either:
- registers with their local careers service, Career connect or has signed up to join the armed forces

[Apply for the extension online](https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19), <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19>

- by phone on 0300 200 3100
- To qualify your child must be 16 or 17; work less than 24 hours a week and not claim certain benefits (e.g. Income Support)

College bursaries

Colleges currently offer bursaries to the following groups of students:

- Young people in Care, care leavers, those in receipt of Income Support or disabled young people claiming Employment Support Allowance dependant on attendance and timekeeping
- Some colleges also offer additional bursaries for students based on household income or criteria such as if you have had free school meals in Year 11 or you are in receipt of benefits.
- Speak to Gemma Fitzpatrick (Careers Advisor) if you think you may be eligible for this

Travel to and from college and food costs

- If you are 16 years old and under 18 your travel will come from the “Our Pass” from the Local Authority. You will need to apply now at www.ourpass.co.uk and complete the application. If you currently hold the igo card you may be asked to apply for the “Our Pass”.
- If you are 18 and above you will need to apply for the College funds for Travel.
- If you received free school meals at school College will support with costs towards food at college and money will be uploaded onto student college ID cards daily, though there will be a limit.

Equipment Costs

- If you have applied to any of the following courses you may need to purchase equipment:
- Catering
- Hair and beauty
- Construction
- Hardship funds are available through college to help with these costs and you should speak to college at enrolment or Gemma in school.
- You will need to apply online for this help with funding, often with proof of your household income or benefits and a student MUST have their own bank account to claim a bursary or help with expenses

Where can I get help with any of these issues?

gemma.fitzpatrick@careerconnect.org.uk

- **0161 393 4500/ 0797 273 2637**

Gemma is in school on Wednesdays every week.