

Transport Information for Post-16 Students at Shaftesbury School

Once a student progresses into Post 16 Education they are not automatically awarded a seat on a school bus. Post-16 seats are **NOT** funded by county and have to be applied for and paid for.

There are various ways of applying for Sixth Form Transport depending on where you live, which school you attend and which bus company covers your area.

This is the information we have been given at the present time and will hopefully answer any queries you may have.

If you live in Wiltshire you should apply to Wiltshire Council at

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-transport-apply>

You should apply before 30th June, the cost of the pass is £710 and can be paid in instalments. However, if you fail to apply before the June deadline this option may not be open to you.

If you live in Somerset you will need to contact Somerset Council at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk> and complete the form to 'Request school transport on a paying basis'. The cost for transport last year was £675 (although it is set to rise for 2018-19) and you are able to pay an annual charge or by monthly instalments.

If you live in Dorset the majority of students are carried on the public bus network (X2 and X3) which is provided by South West Coaches. If your son/daughter currently travels with them they will be contacting you advising prices (£595 2017-18) and enclosing an application form for you to complete and return. This form will register your interest in a surplus seat on their bus. The seats are issued on a first come first served basis so it is important you return the forms to them as soon as possible. You will not be required to make any payment until your seat is allocated and you have confirmed your requirement. If you have not heard from them you are advised to contact them directly on 01963 33124

If your son/daughter travels to school on a Damory bus you will need to contact Go South Coast (operating for Damory) on 01202 338420 to request a Surplus Seat Pass, they will be able to advise of the cost of the pass and how to apply. It is possible that they may not be in a position until the start of the term to confirm availability but they have assured us they will do their utmost to be accommodating.

Shaftesbury School also run minibuses to the surrounding villages of Wilton, Dinton and Child Okeford. Please contact the Finance department on 01747 854498 for full details of the routes and prices.

We are aware that the cost of Post 16 transport can be a major issue for some parents. The Post 16 Bursary may be available to you to assist with these costs and, although the applications cannot be processed until the student is actually attending the sixth form, we are more than happy for you to send an application into school as soon as you wish enabling us to assess it and to advise you of a preliminary outcome. Further guidance and where to access the application form can be found on the 'Quick Guide' information sheet but if you have any queries regarding school transport and the Post 16 Bursary please contact Mrs Perrotton on sue.perrotton@shaftesburyschool.co.uk

A Quick Guide to Financial Support for Post-16 Students

16-19 Bursary

At Shaftesbury and Sturminster Sixth Form the bursary fund is used to support students remaining in post-16 education when financial issues might impact on their time in the Sixth Form. We aim to do this in the following ways.

- Students who the government has identified as ‘highly vulnerable’ such as students looked after by the local authority, care leavers, students who receive Income Support [in their own right] and those entitled to both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance will receive a bursary of £1,200 in six half-termly instalments.
- Students who are eligible for free school meals or who come from families with a household income of below £26,000 will be able to apply for assistance to meet educational needs such as the cost of transport to school, equipment and educational visits. Once it is established a student is eligible for support, payments will be made from the bursary fund each term, but it is not guaranteed that the fund will be sufficient to pay all needs in full.
- If sufficient funds are available we may also be able to provide some support to students on a family income of £26-31,000.
- If sufficient money is available after all identified needs have been met we will also provide a termly lump sum payment to all students eligible for support under the scheme to go towards the general costs of remaining in education.

In order to make payments promptly, it is important that all students who wish to claim assistance in term 1 **return an application form to the school by September 14th**. Application forms are available from reception or the Sixth Form Office or can be downloaded from the school website.

<http://shaftesburyschool.co.uk/sixth-form/useful-publications/>

Other Forms of Assistance

- Free School Meals (claiming these may also entitle you to other assistance such as bursaries and clothing grants). See www.dorsetforyou.com/freeschoolmeals or phone Dorset Direct on 01305 221000.
- Reduced cost concessionary bus transport may be available depending on family income. See www.dorsetforyou.com/402557, Wiltshire residents should search the internet for “Wiltshire transport to sixth forms”.
- Army Bursaries- If you are interested in joining the army there are scholarships that can assist you. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact your local army recruitment office <http://www.army.mod.uk/armyineducation/bursary/6th-form-scholarship.aspx>
- Shaftesbury School’s Foundation Governors have an Old Shastonian Award which funds specialist training, equipment, or a gap year project of community benefit for a student who has completed Year 13. <http://www.lushtrust.org>
- The Charity of William Williams is able to make grants to students who live in the Blandford,
- Sturminster Newton and Shaftesbury/Gillingham area towards the cost of attending university. See <http://www.williamwilliams.org.uk/>
- For advice on other benefits see www.direct.gov.uk, www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

For More Information

Please contact the school office on 01747 854498 or e-mail office@shaftesburyschool.co.uk

A full copy of the school’s bursary policy is available in the Sixth Form Section of the school website.