



Transport Information for Post-16 Students attending Shaftesbury Sixth Form

Once a student progresses onto 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 and which bus company covers your area.

This is the information we have been given at present and will hopefully answer any queries you may have. If however you need any further information please contact the Sixth Form Office.

If you live in Wiltshire you can apply online to Wiltshire Council at

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-transport-apply> Your child can also collect a paper copy of the application form from Student reception at school.

You should apply before 30th June, the cost of the pass is £781 or £231 if your gross household income is less than £20,819 in 2018-19, and can be paid in instalments. However, if you fail to apply before the June deadline the option of paying by instalments may not be open to you.

Please note that if you qualify for the lower rate you DO meet the criteria required to qualify for the Post 16 Bursary and should apply accordingly.

If you live in Dorset. Some students in Dorset may be travelling at present on the public bus network which is provided by South West Coaches.

The X2 travels between Shaftesbury and Gillingham, via Motcombe and the X3 travels between Shaftesbury and Blandford via Iwerne Minster. Whilst it may be possible to purchase a termly ticket they recommend the use of 'Smart Cards' for travel on these busses instead. They act very much like an Oyster card in that you top them up and the cost of each journey is deducted from the balance. The cost of the fare differs depending where students get on the bus but paying for transport this way means you only pay when you travel and should your child not use the bus for any reason, the money stays on the card to be used another time. The 20% discount for school travel still applies to travel using a Smart Card. To find out the cost of travel for the route your child takes, to enquire about applying for a Smart Card or to enquire about a termly pass please call 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 or www.passes.gosouthcoast.co.uk . Here you will find details of how to apply and pay for your pass.

If your son/daughter has an entitlement to Free School Meals or you are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit you **are** entitled to a reduction of 50% in the cost of travel. The full cost was £675 last year and was reduced to £287.50. You will need to contact Dorset County Council to apply for their Surplus Seat Scheme at :-https://dorsetself.achieveservice.com/service/Surplus_Seat_Travel_Scheme

This link should take you to the application form you need to complete.

Please note, if you meet the required criteria for this scheme you DO qualify for the Post 16 Bursary and should apply accordingly.

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 us at SixthFormOffice@shaftesburyschool.co.uk

A Quick Guide to Financial Support for Post-16 Students

16-19 Bursary

At Shaftesbury 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 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.
- 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.

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 13th**. 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 FSM WILL entitle you to other assistance such as 16-19 Bursary which will then pay for the cost of your son/daughter's school transport). 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.gov.uk/education-and-training/school-transport/apply-renew-or-appeal-school-transport.
- Wiltshire residents should follow the link for 'Over 16 transport' at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-transport-apply>
- 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 SixthFormOffice@shaftesburyschool.co.uk

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