

WINCHESTER COLLEGE

Guidance on Bursaries

1. The Founding Intention

When William of Wykeham founded Winchester College in 1382, it was with the purpose of educating boys to exercise leadership in society. His motto, *Manners Maketh Man*, embodied his belief that a civilized society relies for its future on good education. An integral part of his vision was to provide, through charitable endowment, access to education for those who would benefit most, irrespective of their social background.

The original Foundation provided for the education of 70 Scholars, just as there are today. The School now educates more than 670 boys. Our challenge is to build up our bursary resources in order to maintain and renew our founder's intention. Our long-term vision is to build up our endowment in order to have the resources to be able to offer full bursaries for up to 10% of its pupils and part bursaries for 20%.

We are committed to broadening access to the School by offering eligible parents means-tested financial support in the form of bursaries for up to 100% of fees payable.

We will have increased the proportion of fees allocated towards bursaries from 2% to 5% by 2011.

From 2011 onwards, while academic and music Scholarships will continue to be awarded on merit, they will no longer attract an automatic fee remission. From then on, boys will be offered bursaries on a means-tested basis only.

2. The Case for Assistance

The Bursar will consider a number of factors when assessing whether support might be available, and if so, the extent of such support. This will essentially be determined by parents' financial circumstances and the level of funding available. Other influencing factors are:

- *Suitability*: Every applicant must meet the School's admission criteria.
- *Financial Limitations*: The amount of the bursary award is influenced by the extent of need rather than the level of the academic performance. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly, subject to the School's ability to fund these within the context of its overall budget. It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal. However, the School ensures that all bursary awards are consistently assessed and applied. As well as an assessment of current income, outgoings and assets, other factors which may be considered in determining the necessary level of grant include:
 - The ability to improve the financial position or earning power of the family. For example, where there are two partners, both would be expected to be employed unless one is prevented from doing so through incapacity, the need to care for children under school age or other dependents, or the requirements of their partner's work.
 - Opportunities to release any capital. The School would expect significant capital savings and investments to be used for the payment of school fees, as would equity values in houses.
 - In cases of separation, the contribution made by the absent parent.
 - Contribution to household costs by other members of the wider family, any adults unrelated to the child or by outside sources.
 - Whether fees are being paid to other schools (or universities)

- *Other Factors:* It is recognised that, in addition to financial matters, there may be other circumstances which might be considered. These include:
 - Good conduct and continuing good performance of the recipient.
 - Where a boy has siblings at the School.
 - Where the social needs of the boy are relevant
 - Where a parent/guardian is critically ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health or incapacity.
 - Where a separation might result in the pupil having to be withdrawn from the School, adding to the stress of coping with the parents/guardians separating.

3. Requests for financial support usually fall into two categories:

- New applicants to the School, where a place has been offered but parents/guardians are unable to fund the full fees.
- Existing pupils where a change in parents/guardians' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting fees and may otherwise result in the boy being withdrawn part way through a stage of his education.

4. Indicative Bursaries

Parents/guardians may apply for a bursary at any time in advance of entry in order to obtain some indication of whether a bursary might be available and if so at what level. This can only be *indicative* because fee levels, the amount of bursary funding available, and their exact financial circumstances at the time of entry will not be known. A further detailed assessment will take place each year in the January/February/March of the year of entry.

5. New Applicants to the School

The School prospectus and website both contain information alerting prospective parents to the availability of bursary support.

The Application Process

Bursaries may be made available to parents/guardians of boys entering Winchester College at any level. They are awarded at the discretion of the Bursar in consultation with the Headmaster.

- *Step One:* Parents/guardians seeking a bursary are required to complete an application form which seeks to establish parents' financial circumstances. The form, which requests details of income and capital, must be submitted in confidence to the Bursar together with full documentary evidence, including where appropriate full business accounts. The principal application periods for new entrants are January/February in the year of entry, or following successful Election to College in May.
- *Step Two:* The Bursar assesses all applications in order to establish the likely level of support which will be required in order to allow the boy to attend the School. This may involve the Bursar, or his representative, visiting the parents/guardians' home to ensure the information has been correctly interpreted and the basis of the financial assessment has been applied as fairly as possible.
- *Step Three:* Parents/guardians are advised of the outcome of the assessment which will be subject to satisfactory performance in the Entrance examination or at Election.
- *Step Four:* Parents/guardians are formally offered a place at the School and are required to sign a letter of acceptance, including an agreement to any conditions relating to the bursary. This is then returned to the School together with the relevant deposit.

Application forms for bursary assistance are available by post or online from:
Mrs C P Hann, Winchester College, College Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 9NA
Tel: 01962 621404
Email: cph@wincoll.ac.uk

6. Boys Already in the School - Change in Family Circumstances

Applications for financial support are also considered for boys already at Winchester, where there is a change of family circumstance, or sudden and unforeseen need leading to financial difficulty. Applications may be accepted at any time during the year. Such awards are subject to the availability of funding and cannot be guaranteed.

7. Annual Review

All bursary awards are subject to annual review and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. Awards are made on the basis of a sliding scale which is reviewed and revised annually by the Bursar to reflect changes in fees, economic circumstance, demand and bursary funding available in any one year. Existing bursary holders will be issued with new forms in January each year for return by the middle of February. The results of the review will normally be advised by the end of that term. For those previously in receipt of bursaries, the Bursar has the discretion, after consultation with the Headmaster, to reduce or withdraw an award not only where a boy's progress, attitude or behaviour has been unsatisfactory but also where the parents/guardians have failed to support the School, for example by the late payment of their contribution to the fees.

All bursaries are conditional upon good conduct. Bursaries cannot be carried through to Sixth Book unless a boy has met the minimum academic promotion requirement (currently six A grades at GCSE) and has consistently made a good contribution to the School's co-curricular programme.

8. Confidentiality

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

9. Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

In addition to the School's Bursary Fund, there are a number of educational and charitable trusts which provide assistance with tuition fees. In the majority of cases, these are to assist children who are already attending a fee-paying school and due to a change of circumstances may be unable to remain in that school. Winchester College encourages parents/guardians to apply for support where it is felt a good case can be made for assistance. Further information on how to pursue such assistance may be obtained from the Bursar.

The Bursar, Winchester College, College Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9NA
Tel: 01962 621404
Email: jeff.hynam@wincoll.ac.uk

Grants are sometimes available from outside sources such as:
The Educational Trusts Forum *and also* The Joint Educational Trust
6 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8DT
Email: admin@jetcharity.org
Website: www.jetcharity.org