



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 can apply online to Wiltshire Council at

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

You should apply before 30th June. The cost of the pass was £900 in 2023 (£300 if gross household income was less than £20,819 pa). There is the option to pay in instalments. However, if you fail to apply before the June deadline this option may not be open to you.

If you live in Dorset Some students in Dorset may be travelling at present on the public bus network (e.g X2 and No.7) which are provided by South West Coaches/More Bus. Whilst it may be possible to purchase an annual bus pass they recommend the use of 'Smart Cards' for travel on these buses 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 an annual pass please call 01935 475 872.

If your son/daughter travels to school on a Damory bus (service S1 Ashmore to Shaftesbury School via Bedchester) 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.

*We are aware that the cost of Post 16 transport can be a major issue for some parents. **The 16-19 Bursary Fund** may be available to you to assist with these costs. Further guidance and where to access the application form can be found on the 'Quick Guide' information sheet on the reverse of this sheet.*



A Quick Guide to Financial Support for Post-16 Students

Everyone who is in receipt of Free School Meals should apply for the bursary.

16-19 Bursary Fund

At Shaftesbury School 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 £30,000 will be able to apply for assistance to meet educational needs such as the cost of transport to school, equipment and educational visits.
- If sufficient funds are available, we may also be able to provide some support to students on a family income of £30,000-35,000.
- The bursary fund can support with the cost of transport to school, books, equipment and trips associated with courses. Books and equipment can be purchased directly by the school. Students are encouraged to speak to a member of the Sixth Form team about any books or equipment they require.
- Bursary students will receive £2.50 per day on their lunch card to spend in the Sixth Form Café. This is enough to purchase the hot meal of the day (including dessert) which they can pre-order from the sixth form cafe at breaktime.

To apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund:

- **Current Shaftesbury students** and parents complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/CbCby3Ywtg> The form requires students to log in with their school details.
- **External applicants** should contact the Sixth Form Office to request an application form.

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.
- 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/>
- Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show Student Support Fund to support and encourage the very best talent that is training for, and entering into careers in agriculture and related land-based industries. www.gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk/student-support-fund (apply by 31 May).
- For advice on other benefits see www.direct.gov.uk, www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

For More Information

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