



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

BURSARY POLICY

General

The Council of Marlborough College is committed to broadening access to the school by offering to eligible parents means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees.

Bursaries are awarded at the discretion of Council. The Bursaries Committee is responsible for the management and co-ordination of the process.

Awareness

Information provided by the College alerting the parents of potential pupils to the possibility of gaining means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees is included in:

- the College website;
- the Scholarship Prospectus.

Open Access

Bursary support may be awarded in the form of a reduction of up to 100% on fees and may include additional support for uniform, books and extras such as educational visits, payable depending on the financial, compassionate or other relevant circumstances of applicants.

Categories for Financial Support

Requests for financial support usually fall into four categories:

1. Applicants where their parents cannot afford any more than 15% of the fees.
2. Applicants to the Shell or Sixth Form who have won a Scholarship or another Award whose parents are unable to afford the full fees.
3. Existing pupils where a change in parents' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting the fees payable and may result in the child being withdrawn from the College at a time that is outside a normal break point, either the start or the end of IGCSEs.

4. Other applicants to the College who have not won a Scholarship or Award whose parents are unable to afford the full fees.

The bursary resources available to the College are determined annually by Council. The total level of bursaries is therefore fixed and finite.

The number of bursaries awarded to Applicants in Category 1 is determined annually by the Master.

Applicants in Category 2 receive priority in the allocation of bursaries and they can rely on receiving support to a level in which they can afford the remainder of the fees.

For pupils in Category 3 the College will in normal circumstances set aside funds each year for cases of sudden or unforeseen need.

Applicants for Category 4 are considered after bursaries have been allocated to the previous categories.

The College will only be able to provide bursaries to a proportion of applicants before its funds have run out. Bursaries are awarded on an order of priority defined by the child's suitability. In assessing suitability, attention will be given to the assessment of the applicant with priority being given those who might benefit the most from and contribute the most to the ethos of the College.

Decision Making

Bursaries are decided by the Bursaries Committee. Awards are assessed on the basis of a completed confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances (a form recommended by the Independent Schools' Bursars Association). Applicants for bursary support are likely to receive a home visit by a representative of an outside agency hired by the College to help assess appropriate levels of support.

The assessment determines the appropriate level of parental contribution in relation to their net resources and thus the level of the award that will be offered. The level of the award may also be influenced by compassionate or other relevant circumstances.

Criteria for Assessment

The College will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support, and the extent of such support.

Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly. It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal. However, the College has a duty to ensure that all bursary grants are well focussed and so, as well as current earnings, other factors which will be considered in determining the necessary level of grant will 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. Significant capital savings and investments would be expected 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, wider, family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by outside sources;
- acknowledging that others might have a different view, the College considers that the following would not be consistent with the receipt of a bursary:
 - frequent or expensive holidays;
 - new or luxury cars;
 - investment in significant home improvements;
 - a second property/land holdings.

It is recognised that, in addition to academic ability and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered. These include:

- where the social needs of the child are relevant;
- where a parent is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health.

Annual Review

Awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. Scholars and award holders are expected to remain worthy of their position which is also subject to periodic formal review.

Bursary Application Process

A completed Statement of Financial Circumstances must be submitted to the Admissions office by the closing date for application to the College, so for applicants to the Shell for entry in September 2018 a fully completed form needs to be received by 5 November 2016 and for applicants to the Sixth Form the completed form needs to be received by 30 September 2017. It is advised that forms are submitted well in advance of these times so that any incomplete information can be supplied before the deadline for application. Applications that are not complete will not be considered.

Bursary assessment, including home visits, takes place after receipt of the Statement of Financial Circumstances form. In the above example, places for 2018 entry are awarded in March 2017 for the Shell and December 2017 for Sixth Form.

Parents with a child at the College whose financial circumstances suddenly change may apply for a bursary to the Director of Corporate Resources, explaining their situation and requesting assistance. Such awards are subject to the availability of funding and cannot be guaranteed.

Confidentiality

The College respects the confidentiality of bursary awards and recipients are expected to do likewise.

Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

In addition to the College's funds, 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. The College encourages parents 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:

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The Educational Trusts Forum
Website : <http://www.educational-grants.org/>

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