

## Learner Bursaries – EMA replacement

- **Learner bursaries are for full-time students including those on work-based Foundation and Pre-Foundation Learning programmes aged 16-19. They will run for the academic year 2011/12.** EMA Education Maintenance awards were closed to new applicants on 1 January 2011.

### Learners starting post 16 learning in 2011/12 (2011 school leavers)

- The new bursaries are aimed at helping you, if you are most in need. You will need to see if you are eligible for a **guaranteed bursary** or school/college/provider **bursary**.
  - **A guaranteed bursary** payment of £1,200 per year is aimed at a small number of students who need most help. You would be in this group if you are in care, a care leaver or receive income support in your own right. Income support is paid to young people such as teenage parents, young people with severe disabilities, teenagers living away from their parents and young people whose parents have died. Schools and colleges have flexibility to pay more to young people who need it.
  - **Bursaries paid by schools, colleges and training providers.** Each local area can decide how the scheme will operate locally.

They can award bursaries to support any student who faces genuine financial hardship such as costs of transport, food or equipment.

They can decide how much each student will receive and whether it will be paid weekly, monthly, or annually; and can choose to link it to behaviour, standard of work or attendance.

They can decide whether the bursary is paid in cash or they can choose to provide 'in kind support' for example providing equipment required for a particular course.

They may also set conditions about what happens if you leave a course or programme.

### **If you currently get EMA**

- **Young people in care, care leavers and those on income support will be eligible for a new guaranteed bursary of £1,200 a year in place of their current weekly payments.**
- If you successfully applied for EMA in 2009/10, you will continue to receive payments at the same level until the end of the 2011/12 academic year, if you continue in study.
- If you are in your first year of post-16 study (Year 12) and receive the maximum weekly EMA payment of £30, you will be eligible for £20 for each week you are in education or training until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.
- If you started in Year 12 in September 2010 and currently receive either £20 or £10 EMA you will not receive EMA after the end of academic year 2010/11. You can apply for a bursary from your school or college.
- If you have not started a course but applied successfully for an EMA of £30 a week before the application deadline and start a course in 2011/12 academic year you will get £20 a week to the end of the 2011/12 deadline.

### **Applications for Learner Bursaries**

- Details of how the scheme will operate locally should be announced in June 2011. A marketing campaign is being planned.
- The Government will monitor the scheme during 2011/12 and may change the scheme for 2012/13.

**Further updates will be issued when more information is released from the Government.**

**24 May 2011**