VALE OF EVESHAM SCHOOL

Learning For Life

May 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

16 – 19 Bursary Fund 2026/27 from the Department for Education (DfE)

For the new academic year, starting in September 2026, funding is available for students in year groups 12 and 13, who are staying on in education and meet certain eligibility criteria.

The Government aims to eliminate the gap in attainment between different backgrounds and to ensure every young person participates in, and benefits from, a place in 16-19 education and training.

There are three elements to the funding:

1. A full-year vulnerable learner bursary element (for courses of 30 weeks or more) **Complete Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5**
2. A pro-rata vulnerable learner bursary element (for courses of fewer than 30 weeks) **Complete Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5**
3. A discretionary bursary element – for school transport costs, specialist equipment etc. – **Complete Sections 1, 3, 4 and 5**

An application form is enclosed for completion **if the criteria are met** (these are also enclosed) e.g. free school meals claimants are entitled to apply to the discretionary bursary for costs like school transport under No.3 above.

Payments from the bursary are made either directly to the student (a bank account in the name of the student is essential) or to the entity concerned, e.g. the transport provider.

Please note that school transport (which is provided free for students up to and including Year 11) is **not** funded for students in Years 12 and 13 and will subsequently be invoiced directly from the provider (for example, Worcestershire County Council) for their transport costs from September 2026. If you received a bursary for this academic year you will need to complete a new application for the 2026-27 academic year.

The closing date for applications is 10am on Monday 1st June 2026.

Yours sincerely

Brian Thomas
Headteacher
Enc: Application Form 2026-27; Bursary Policy 2026-27