**Date 12/09/2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Discretionary Bursaries for the academic year 2023 to 2024**

This year we are pleased to be receiving some of our funding from the Department for Education (DfE). Because of this, I am writing to tell you about an amount of money, called a Discretionary Bursary Fund, that has been given to us to use to help your child.

The College would like to support students who might otherwise be disadvantaged from accessing their learning, both at the College and when on an external work placement. The bursary fund can help towards the costs of travel, books, equipment, and uniform for work placements, where these areas relate to your child’s study programmes at the College. Once agreed, and wherever possible, the College will purchase the items for you on behalf of the student.

The government has set specific rules around the application for the Discretionary Bursary Fund. Please consider the following to see if you and your child can apply:

* your child must be over 19 but under 25 on 31 August 2023 and have an education, health, and care plan
* your total household income must not exceed £30,000 (you will need to send evidence of this with your application form)

If you believe you are eligible for this funding, please request an application form from the College or you can download one from our website.

There is also a guide for students which can be found on the government’s website as follows: <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

**All applications and full supporting evidence must be submitted to the College by Tuesday 31 October 2023. Please note that our policy is to maintain strict confidentiality in the review and storage of these documents.**

A panel will consider applications in November and we will let you know the outcome shortly after this date, so we can begin any approved purchases for your child as soon as possible.

Should you wish to discuss how the bursary fund can help your child or need help with completing any part of the bursary application form, please contact the College

Yours sincerely,

Ben Swallow

Chief Finance and Operations Officer