

# Leicester High School for Girls

## Means-tested Bursaries

### General

The Governors of Leicester High School for Girls are committed to broadening access to the school by offering to eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of schools fees. Such support is known as a Bursary and these may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 100% on tuition fees payable, depending on the financial, compassionate or other pertinent circumstances of applicants.

Bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on parental circumstances. Awards are made on the basis of the Leicester High School Scale of Awards, which sets out award levels in relation to a family's financial circumstances. The Scale of Awards is reviewed and revised annually by the Bursar to reflect any changes in fee costs, and approved by the Governors. Though awards are generally tied to this scale, they may be varied upwards or downwards depending on individual parents/guardians' circumstances (e.g. their savings, investments and realisable assets, as well as their income, the size of their family, any other persons dependent upon them and like factors), compassionate or other pertinent considerations.

Requests for financial support usually fall into two categories:

- New applicants to the school, where a place has been offered but parents/guardians are unable to fund the tuition fees.
- Existing pupils where a change in parents/guardians' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting tuition fees and may result in the child being withdrawn part way through a stage of education.

### New Applicants to the School

Awareness. Information provided by the School alerting the parents/guardians of potential pupils to the possibility of gaining means-tested financial support with the payment of schools fees is included in:

- The School prospectus.
- The School website.
- The local press by means of advertisements.

### The Application Process.

Bursaries may be made available to parents/guardians of children entering Year 3 or above of Leicester High School. They are awarded at the discretion of the Governors

and the Head and School Bursar are responsible for the management and coordination of the process.

- Step One. Parents/guardians seeking a bursary are required to complete an application form which seeks to establish the financial circumstances of the household. The form, which requests details of income and capital, may be found at Annex A and must be accompanied by full documentary evidence. The completed forms, together with the necessary documentary evidence, are to be submitted to the Bursar no later than the **31 January** in any year for bursaries to start the following September.
- Step Two. The Bursar assesses all applications in order to establish the likely level of support which will be required in order to allow the child to attend the School. This may involve the Bursar, or his representative, visiting the parents/guardians' home to ensure the information has been correctly interpreted and the basis of the financial assessment has been fair.
- Step Three. The Bursar prepares a recommendation in accordance with the Leicester High School Scale of Awards which is considered with the Head and a joint recommendation is then reached.
- Step Four. The joint recommendation is presented to the Governors for approval.
- Step Five. End of February. The parents/guardians are advised whether their child is to be offered a bursary.
- Step Six. Parents/guardians are then required to sign a letter accepting the place at the school and an acknowledgement agreeing to any conditions relating to the bursary.

#### The Case for Assistance.

The Head and Bursar will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support, and the extent of such support. In the main, the child's suitability for the school is the first consideration in granting support.

- Suitability. In assessing a child's suitability, attention will be given to the academic assessment result of each applicant, but potential will also be considered as well as actual achievement. Bursary funds are limited and those judged most suitable will be given priority as those likely to gain most from the educational provision. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Head, be likely to make sound academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of his or her work, and benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the School. In normal circumstances, each applicant should meet the School's normal academic requirements. Previous school reports will be consulted for evidence of good behaviour.

- Financial Limitations. The amount of the bursary award is not influenced by the level of the academic ability of the child but by the extent of need. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly, subject to the School's ability to fund these within the context of what is viable within the context of its overall budget. It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal. However, the School 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.
  - Where fees are being paid to other schools (or universities) the School's grant will take into account all these outgoings.
  - Acknowledging that others might have a different view, the School 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.
- Other Factors. It is recognised that, in addition to academic ability and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered. These include:
  - Where a child has siblings at the School.
  - Where the social needs of the child are relevant (e.g: may be suffering from bullying at their present school).
  - Where a parent/guardian is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health.

- Where a separation has resulted in the child having to be withdrawn from the School adding to the stress of coping with the parents/guardians separating.

## **Existing Pupils - Change in Family Circumstances**

Within overall budget funding, the School will in normal circumstances set aside each year a Hardship Fund, for cases of sudden, unforeseen need or where applications meriting bursary assistance are received out of the normal calendar cycle for bursary submission, scrutiny and award. This sum will be set within budgetary constraints. Parents/guardians with a child at the School whose financial circumstances suddenly change may apply for a bursary to the Bursar explaining their situation and using the forms at Annex A. Such awards are subject to the availability of funding and cannot be guaranteed.

## **Annual Review**

All bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. Current bursary holders will be issued with repeat means-testing forms at the beginning of April each year for return by the end of the month. For those previously in receipt of bursaries, the Head and Bursar, in making their joint recommendation to the Governors, have the discretion to recommend to the Governors the reduction or withdrawal of an award not only where a pupil's progress, attitude or behaviour has been unsatisfactory but also where the parents/guardians have failed to support the school, for example by the late payment of any contribution they are making to the fees.

## **Confidentiality**

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

## **Credit Check**

Applicants may be asked to sign their consent for a credit check to be carried out as part of the bursary assessment process.

## **The Home Visit**

Leicester High School's Governors may require a formal visit to be made to the family homes of an applicant for bursary assistance before the initial offer of financial support can be made. There are several reasons for this policy:

- First, it gives us the opportunity to discuss all the various papers that have been sent to you in relation to your application for financial support in informal and relaxed surroundings so that you understand the system thoroughly. Bursary holders are important to the school. The commitment and support of the pupil's family is very important to us.
- We need to make sure that both parents or carers understand how our means-testing system works. Every school is different, and at Leicester High School, we want you to understand exactly what contributions you may be required to make on top of your child's bursary. School fees historically increase at a faster rate

than inflation. Can you afford realistically your contribution over the next 5 years?

- Papers can be checked and additional ones found relatively easily.
- We can ask you additional questions based upon your family's circumstances.
- The information presented on paper can be seen in its proper context.
- There is an opportunity to re-assure you, as parents, that the process of allocating financial support will be entirely confidential – known only by the Head and Bursar [and Trustees on the review board]. The teaching staff do not know which pupil receives bursaries.
- The limitations to our financial support can be explained. For example, the support for school trips and visits given to 100% bursary holders (which may be subject to an annual cap) is restricted to trips with genuine educational value, such a Geography field trips and Language exchanges, as opposed to the ski trip. Many families of bursary holders are surprised to be told that parents who pay the full fees may well limit their child's take-up of expensive foreign sporting trips.
- We will ask you if you have also applied for grants from outside trusts or bodies. Any support from a third party will be taken into account in calculating the level of our support.
- Our home visit is concerned solely with the circumstances of the parents or carers. There is no need for your son or daughter to become involved.

### **Other Sources of Bursary Assistance**

In addition to the School's bursary Fund, 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. Leicester High School encourages parents/guardians 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:

The Bursar  
Leicester High School for Girls  
0116 2746014  
Email: [am@leicesterhigh.co.uk](mailto:am@leicesterhigh.co.uk)

LEICESTER HIGH SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST LIMITED

**Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances in support of an application  
for a Grant Academic Year 2012 -13**

*Please read the Notes for Guidance on pages 8-10 before completing this questionnaire*

This questionnaire is in the form recommended by the Independent Schools' Bursars Association

**Please complete and return the form to the Bursar by 31 January 2012.**

**1. CHILD**

- (a) Full Names .....
- (b) Date of Birth .....
- (c) Term/Year of Entry (if not yet enrolled) .....

**2. PARENTS (See note 2)**

	Father/Step-father	Mother/Step-mother
(a) Names	.....	.....
(b) Style or Title	.....	.....
(c) Address(es)	.....	.....
	.....	.....
(d) Occupation	.....	.....
(e) Retired    Employed    Self Employed    Unemployed ( <i>circle which applies</i> )		
(f) Names & Address of Employer or Business	.....	.....
	.....	.....
(g) Are you a Director or Proprietor of this Company or Business? If "YES" state proportion of Company or Business you and/or your Spouse/partner own	YES/NO	YES/NO
	.....	.....
(h) Daytime Tel No	.....	.....
Evening Tel No	.....	.....
Mobile Tel No	.....	.....
Fax No	.....	.....

E-mail address .....

**3. INCOME** (See note 3)

*(Please enter below your current earnings and expected income from all sources for this tax year)*

	<b>Father £</b>	<b>Mother £</b>
(a) Gross Salary and other similar earnings (including all taxable benefits & emoluments)	.....	.....
(b) Profits of business, farm, estate or professions	.....	.....
(c) Gross pension, widow's pension, etc	.....	.....
(d) Gross investment income from:		
ii) Building Societies/Banks	.....	.....
i) Dividends	.....	.....
(e) Gross income from property	.....	.....
(f) Social Security benefits (including Child Allowance)	.....	.....
(g) Separation or Maintenance Allowance	.....	.....
(h) Is there a Court Order/Separation Agreement? If yes, please state annual amount payable for school fees.	YES/NO	YES/NO
(i) Benefits in Kind provided free by reason of employment	.....	.....
(j) Any other income not included in (a) to (i) above	.....	.....

**4. OUTGOINGS** (See note 4)

(a) Tax payable on Incomes declared above <i>(including tax deducted at source)</i>	.....	.....
(b) National Insurance Contributions	.....	.....
(c) Superannuation contributions	.....	.....
(d) Mortgage interest <i>(include capital repayment as well as interest)</i>	.....	.....
(e) Endowment mortgage insurance	.....	.....
(f) Any other interest payable <i>(please specify)</i>	.....	.....
(g) Annual landlord rent payable on principal residence	.....	.....

**5. CAPITAL ASSESTS (See note 5)**

- (a) Approximate market value of all investments
  - i) Building Society/Bank deposits .....
  - ii) Equity investments, Government stocks .....
  - iii) PEPs, ISAs, TESSAs .....
- (b) Approximate market value of principal residence (freehold or leasehold) .....
- (c) Approximate market value of other possessions including house contents, car etc.....
- (d) Cash at banks or elsewhere .....
- (e) Approximate market value of any other Assets *(please specify and include the market value of any Insurance Policies maturing in this tax year or the last five years)* .....
- (f) Net worth/value of any businesses which You own or share .....
- (g) Approximate market value of any other Properties owned either at home or abroad .....
- (h) Redundancy, employment separation or Lump sum payments .....

**6. CAPITAL LIABILITIES (See note 6)**  
*(Please give details of any capital charges against the assets declared in Section 5)*

- (a) Mortgage - amount outstanding on house .....
- final payment date .....
- (b) Other liabilities (please specify) .....

**SUB TOTAL ASSETS (5)** .....

**LIABILITIES (6)** .....

**NET ASSESTS (5-6)** .....

*You should indicate if there are any reasons why net assets cannot be converted or utilised to pay school fees or to fund fees.*

**7. DEPENDENT CHILDREN** (See note 7)

*(Include the child to whom this application refers: if more than 4 children, give details on a separate sheet)*

	1	2	3	4
(a) Forename	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) Date of Birth	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) School or College	.....	.....	.....	.....
(d) Boarding or Day	.....	.....	.....	.....
	£	£	£	£
(e) Annual school or other educational fees <i>(excluding extras and sundry disbursements)</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....
(f) Compulsory additional school charges	.....	.....	.....	.....
(g) Amount of fees shown in (e) covered by:				
(i) Government Assisted Places Scheme, Scholarships, Bursaries or allowances given by school	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Annual sum arising from capital repayment scheme	.....	.....	.....	.....
(iii) Services/Diplomatic/Company Education Allowances (gross) <i>(State whether sum has been included in gross salary at</i>				

- 3 (a) .....
- (iv) Annual sum arising from Educational Insurance Policies .....
- (v) Assistance from any other sources eg Grandparents, trusts, settlements, etc (please specify) .....
- (h) (i) Annual income of child (if any) .....
- (ii) Capital Value of Trust .....

*The details requested with regard to the fees payable and grants received on behalf of your other children are for information only and will not normally be taken into account in the assessment of the level of grant awarded.*

**8. OTHER DEPENDENTS** (See note 8) *(Please give details)*

**9. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION** (See note 9)

**10. VERIFICATION OF INCOME**

Please enclose documentary evidence in support of the income figures in Section 3.  
Please tick those you are enclosing:

- P60                    05.04.11                    Schedule D Tax Assessment .....
- March Pay Advice 2011                    Schedule E Tax Assessment .....
- Report & Accounts (including Balance Sheet) for the years 2010/2011.....
- Others (please specify) .....

.....  
**VERIFICATION OF ASSETS**

Please enclose documentary evidence of capital assets and tick those you are enclosing:

Property Valuation ..... Investment Portfolio Valuation .....  
Mortgage Statement ..... Contents Insurance .....

**11. DECLARATION**

After having read the attached notes, the following declaration should be signed by both parents/applicants (or see below):

We/I have read the notes and have made a complete declaration of our/my income and assets.

We/I understand that if we/I are/am offered a Grant for our/my child:-

- a) our/my child's fees account with the School will be credited termly with the amount of the Grant;
- b) we/I understand that any award or grant is subject to annual review and that we/I must complete an annual declaration of our/my financial circumstances on the form sent to us/me by the School and supply all relevant supporting evidence by the return date indicated;
- c) undertake to report immediately any material change in the financial position declared;
- d) the Grant may be withdrawn or reduced, and in certain circumstances, past payment reclaimed if:
  - i) there is a breach of the School's Terms and Conditions attached to the acceptance of a place for our/my child at the school;
  - ii) we/I have knowingly and/or recklessly provided false information;
  - iii) we/I have failed to return the annual declaration of our/my financial circumstances by the return date indicated;
  - iv) we/I have failed to produce any additional information required by the School to evidence our/my financial circumstances;
  - v) there is in the view of the Headmistress either unsatisfactory work or conduct;
  - vi) the School's resources are insufficient to maintain the level of award.

Signatures:

Father ..... Date.....

Mother..... Date.....

If the above declaration is signed by only one parent, please delete as necessary below.

*Divorced/separated/widowed/other (state reason)*

## ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES

In order to help the greatest number of parents who need financial assistance, all those who apply for a grant from the school are asked first to enquire if they are eligible for assistance from any other source.

Please state whether you have applied to trusts or foundations for a grant, and if so to which and with what result.

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETION OF BURSARY APPLICATION FORM

Before completing the form, please read these notes carefully, and contact the Bursar if further information or advice is required. These notes refer to the corresponding paragraph on the Form.

**The School reserves the right to seek any other documentary evidence in support of the income and asset figures submitted, and to make enquiries which it deems necessary.**

All financial values should be shown in Sterling. References to Inland Revenue should include the relevant national Taxation Authority.

### 2. PARENTS/APPLICANTS

These are defined as:

- The natural father and mother of the child where they live together (whether or not they are married to each other) and the child normally resides with them both in the same household; or
- The parent of the child with whom the child normally resides and the partner (if any) of that parent where the partner normally resides with that parent and the child in the same household; or
- The child's guardian appointed in accordance with section 5 of the Children Act 1989 (or any earlier enactment) and the partner (if any) of that guardian where the partner normally resides with that guardian and the child in the same household; or
- The person with whom the child resides in accordance with either:
  - (i) a subsisting residence order made under section 8 of the Children Act 1989; or
  - (ii) any subsisting court order (other than a residence order) which specifies who is to have actual custody or care and control of the child; or
- where a pupil either has no parents as defined above or the school is satisfied that no such parents can be found, and he is either looked after by a local authority or provided with accommodation within the meaning of section 105(1) of the Children Act 1989, the pupil shall be treated as one whose parents have no income for the purposes of the scheme; or
- where none of the above applies, the parent is the person with whom the pupil normally resides in accordance with any informal care or fostering arrangement and that person's partner (if any) where the partner normally resides with that person and the pupil in the same household.
- If parents are separated or divorced before or while their child attends the School, both mother and father will require to complete and sign the Application Form.

### 3. INCOME

- a) The gross annual amount of salaries and wages, including any earnings from profit related pay, part-time employment and any sum received as bonus, commission etc, statutory sick pay, statutory maternity pay giving GROSS amounts (before deduction of tax, NI, superannuation, etc) for the current or latest financial year. Taxable benefits in kind agreed with the Inland Revenue should also be shown (free or subsidised housing, meals, petrol, cars, etc) - at the amount agreed for taxable purposes.
- b) Profits from a business or profession - at the amount of GROSS income agreed by HMT or relevant tax authority for the year in question (deductions should be made only in respect of capital allowances, losses and stock relief). Copies of the latest set of accounts should be included.
- d) All other Investment income (eg interest or National Savings Bank deposits; dividends, annuities etc) should be entered GROSS of tax. If tax was deducted at source, parents should add in the amount of tax paid or tax credit notified. Building Society interest must be disclosed GROSS.

- f) All social security benefits received should be declared and type of benefit specified.
- g) Court Orders, Legal Separation Agreements and Voluntary Arrangements for School Fees - Where a parent is required by a Court Order, or a legal binding separation agreement (eg Deed of Separation) to pay part of the School fees, then only that part of the fee which is not covered by the Court Order/agreement will be used to calculate any grant to be awarded. This is irrespective of whether or not the order or agreement is being complied with. Where the whole amount of the fees are required to be paid by virtue of a Court Order or separation agreement, applicants are not eligible for a grant. You should indicate how many years are payable and any annual variations. All receipts relating to maintenance payments, separation allowances and sums in respect of Child Support maintenance must be declared.
- i) Include free benefits in kind agreed by Inland Revenue as not subject to tax, eg representative occupation of house, free meals.
- j) Enter income from letting or subletting of property at the amount of the NET profit agreed with the Inland Revenue; and royalties and all other sources including entertainment and travel allowances etc.

#### **4. OUTGOINGS**

- a) Enter Income Tax and tax on unearned income SEPARATELY.
- c) Enter annual superannuation contribution of (if applicable) payments to other Pension Schemes.
- d) Enter capital as well as interest payment on a mortgage for the principal residence.
- e) Only complete this if repayment is effected by means of a full Endowment Policy.
- f) Include bank overdraft and other loan charges incurred during the year (specifying the purpose of the loan).

#### **5. PARENTS'/APPLICANTS' CAPITAL ASSETS**

In addition to taking account of all relevant sources of income, the School takes account of the following assets:

- a) The capital sum of any monies on deposit with any bank, deposit taker or building society. Investments in stocks and shares, valued as near as possible to the date of submitting the application form.
- b) The current market value of your principal residence. The current market value should be estimated by parents.
- f) If you run your own business or are partners in a business, then you should show the net worth of the business. Shares in a company not listed on a stock exchange should be valued at the relevant proportion of the net value of the company.
- g) In the case of second homes and/or other properties, these should also be included at their estimated current market value; no allowance will be made for any outstanding mortgage.

#### **6. PARENTS'/APPLICANTS' CAPITAL LIABILITIES**

Details of other liabilities should be provided along with the lender.

#### **7. DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

Use column number 1 for the child for whom you are now applying at his/her current school rate. Enter in other columns any other of your children who are unmarried and at a school, university or other educational institution which attracts a county grant.

- e) The figures to be inserted here refer to the current academic year.

- g) (iii) Members of HM Forces and Diplomatic Service should include the amount of any Education Allowances which they receive. Parents in other occupations should include any similar sum.
- (iv) Insurance Policies for School Fees - if any insurance policy for the payment of School fees exists, then the amount declared is the amount receivable under the policy for the academic year for which the application is being made. If the insurance policy covers the full cost of the tuition fees, then the pupil is not eligible for a grant. The types of policy concerned are those which stipulate that the company shall pay the school fees, in whole or in part, to the school in respect of the pupil.
- (v) Where a Trust Deed has been drawn in favour of the Child for whom you are applying, details of the annual amount available and the date of commencement of payment under the Deed should be given.
- h) Where the child has any earned income, eg interest from National Savings, bank or building society deposits, or receives share dividends, you should enter the source of income and the gross amount received before deduction of tax. Do not include any income from part time employment or student grants. You should enter the capital value of any beneficiary or other trust set up for each child.

## **8. OTHER DEPENDENTS**

If you qualify for Carer's Allowance, or have an aged grandparent or relative living with you or dependent upon you, please provide details including age, address, condition, etc.

## **9. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**

Please enter, on a separate sheet if necessary, any details which may affect the assessment of a grant, eg a significant change in income or outgoings for the coming year.