



Newstead Wood School - Sixth Form Access Programme

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Aim

Our aim is to make the Sixth Form at Newstead as supportive and inclusive as possible to all students. We want to reduce any worries that potential students and their parents/carers may have about applying to join our Sixth Form.

The 16-19 Bursary Fund already exists to provide financial support for Sixth Form students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Full details of the fund, including eligibility criteria and how to apply are shared with all Sixth Form students at the beginning of each academic year and can be found on our [website here](#).

In addition to this financial support, we also provide the highest quality support and guidance possible to facilitate Newstead students from all backgrounds to 'grow in strength' and access routes for life beyond school.

Context

Educational research (Tikly et al., 2016¹) has identified that schools have an important role to play in supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds or those from families where going to university is not the norm. This is particularly true when it comes to the provision of advice and guidance relating to university admissions:

"The provision of advice for students should be timed to coincide with "crunch" points in students' decision-making processes: such as choosing degree subjects; making UCAS applications; receiving predicted grades; and receiving offers from universities. Students would benefit from a sustained relationship with school staff and being able to access holistic support at each of these stages"

These students tend to be underrepresented in applications to university and elsewhere. Consequently, an increasing number of higher education institutions use 'contextual offers' to encourage applications from those students who are, generally, less likely to apply.

Contextual offers tend to be one or two grades below the standard entry requirements. In addition, many higher education institutions and organisations also provide additional outreach opportunities and admissions support for underrepresented students as part of their work to widen access.

Eligibility Criteria: Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme

¹ Tikly, L et al. (2016) Widening access to university: Step change needed to support talented learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. University of Bristol, Policy Briefing 29/2016. https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medialibrary/sites/policybristol/briefings-and-reports-pdfs/pre-2017-briefings--reports-pdfs/PolicyBristol_Briefing_29_2016_Widening_Access_To_University.pdf



We have developed the Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme to identify those students who may be eligible for these access opportunities and who may require additional support.

To join the Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme, students would usually meet at least two of the following criteria:

- First generation applicant to Higher Education
- Parents, guardian, or self in receipt of a means tested benefit
- Young people looked after by a Local Authority, or who have been in care or looked after for three months or more
- In receipt of 16-19 bursary
- Resident in an area with a postcode which falls within the lowest 20% of the IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation), or a member of a travelling family
- In receipt of free school meals at any time during Years 10-13 (normally for a minimum period of at least one school term/2 months)
- Eligible for the UCAT Bursary
- Participation in a recognised, academically focused university outreach or widening participation programme.

Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The final decision will be made by the Head of Sixth Form in conjunction with the School Business Manager.

Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme: Support

As part of our promise to those students who join the Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme, we commit to offer the following:

- Confidentiality - Assistance is given with the minimum of fuss so that no student/family can be identified as receiving support
- Your own device to use at school and at home while you are a member of our Sixth Form
- A specific mentor from within the wider Sixth Form team who can provide bespoke support and guidance, particularly relating to the process of applying for future courses or destinations
- Transition support from your mentor upon joining Newstead Wood School Sixth Form
- Study Skills workshop early in Year 12 to support independent study and demands of your chosen A level courses
- Support with application forms and references when applying for outreach or widening participation programmes
- Support with identifying and securing work experience placements
- Priority access for Careers/HE interviews or events
- Access to a mailing list where relevant opportunities will be signposted, particularly those where they may meet the entry requirements
- The ability to apply for additional financial support with payments related to university applications e.g. their UCAS application, entry for admissions tests such as UCAT, support towards the cost of one university visit etc.
- An 'Enrichment guarantee' to ensure you benefit from the diverse range of enrichment activities on offer at Newstead Wood School.



This is in addition to the extensive range of extra and super curricular activities, Careers guidance and Higher Education support already on offer to all Newstead students.

Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme: Application Process

Students will be invited to apply for the programme at the start of Year 12.

Applications will be reviewed by the Sixth Form Team and students will be invited for an informal discussion to help identify their needs and aspirations. This conversation will help identify the most appropriate support on a student-by-student basis.

By joining the programme, students will be committing to fully engaging with the support provided to them.

If you have any further queries about the Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme then please contact Mrs Burchill by email sixthform@newsteadwood.co.uk



Appendix

Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme Application Form

Please read the Newstead Wood School Access Programme Guidance document prior to completing this form.

Application Details

Student Details:	
Surname:	First Names:
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Post Code:	
E-mail address:	

Eligibility Criteria

To join the Newstead Sixth Form Access Programme, students would usually meet at least two of the following criteria. Please tick those which apply and enclose or upload proof of your status or address in the written statement below:

	Please tick those which apply	Is evidence included? If not, please address in statement below
First generation applicant to Higher Education		
Parents, guardian, or self in receipt of a means tested benefit		
Young people looked after by a Local Authority, or who have been in care or looked after for three months or more		
In receipt of 16-19 bursary		
Resident in an area with a postcode which falls within the lowest 20% of the IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation), or a member of a travelling family		
In receipt of free school meals at any time during Years 10-13 (normally for a minimum period of at least one school term/2 months)		
Eligible for the UCAT Bursary		
Participation in a recognised, academically focused university outreach or widening participation programme.		



Student Declaration:

I have read and understand Newstead Wood School Access Programme Guidance and confirm that I meet the criteria. The information contained within my application is true to the best of my knowledge and I will advise Newstead Wood School of any change in circumstances during the academic year.

Signature of Student:

Date:

Parent Declaration:

I have read and understand Newstead Wood School Access Programme Guidance and confirm that I meet the criteria. The information contained within this application is true to the best of my knowledge and I will advise Newstead Wood School of any change in circumstances during the academic year.

Signature of Parent:

Date:

Please return completed forms to sixthform@newsteadwood.co.uk