Dame Allan's
Schools

A guide to financial assistance at Dame Allan's Schools



Dame Allan's Schools have a long history of providing support to pupils who would not otherwise be able to access the excellent opportunities the Schools offer. Indeed this support was a founding principle of the Schools in 1705, when Dame Eleanor Allan's endowment provided an education for 20 poor girls and 40 poor boys from the parishes of St Nicholas and St John in Newcastle upon Tyne. Now over 300 years later, that sense of charity and of providing an excellent education remains central to our ethos.

Every year the Schools make available bursaries to applicants whose parental circumstances are such that they would not be able to attend the Schools without such an award. Over recent years, financial assistance has been provided to over 10 per cent of pupils, with many receiving support at a level of 100 per cent. Academic scholarships are also awarded by the Schools and pupils can be in receipt of both scholarship and bursary awards.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a bursary?
A bursary is financial assistance towards the payment of school fees. It is means-tested and its value depends on the income and financial resources of the pupil's family.

Who can apply for a bursary?
Most bursaries are allocated on entry to Year 7.

What level of bursary will be provided?
Bursaries range from five per cent to 100 per cent of fees; the value of any award depends on the level of demand as well as the amount of funds available.

How long is a bursary award made for?
Once a bursary has been offered, it will remain in force throughout the pupil's time at the Schools, subject to satisfactory attendance, work and progress, and subject to an annual review of the family's changing circumstances. The Schools reassess every family every year to take account of significant changes in a family's income and circumstances.

As a result, the value of the bursary award may go up or down. Please note: a voluntary reduction in family income will not be matched by an increase in the level of assistance - if, for example, parents give up employment by choice during their child's time at the Schools.

Could a bursary be withdrawn?
Very rarely, however the Schools may withdraw a bursary if, for example, inaccurate information has been provided to support an award or the pupil's behaviour, work or attendance is unsatisfactory.

How is eligibility assessed?
The financial circumstances of the family applying are assessed. This will take into account all income and capital resources (e.g. investments, property, savings) as well as individual family circumstances. Documentary evidence will be required to support the family's financial position. As so many different factors are taken into account when considering the award, the level of awards can differ from family to family.

However, as a guide, 100 per cent bursary awards are more likely to be made to pupils from families with a total income of less than £41,650 per year with no capital assets other than their home. It is unlikely that a bursary would be awarded to a family whose annual income is greater than £72,850, other than in very exceptional circumstances. The Schools will take into account any significant assets held which could be used to fund a pupil's education.

Will my child receive free school meals if they have been awarded a bursary?
If your child would have been eligible for free school meals had they attended a school in the state sector, then they will be provided with free school meals at Dame Allan's Schools.

"I would not have attended Dame Allan's without the instrumental help of a bursary award; the massively positive impact the Schools have had on me and my development cannot be understated.

The Schools have given me innumerable opportunities across a huge range of domains: academics, sports, performing arts, public speaking and so much more. I am grateful to have been able to make the most of the resources that an independent school education offers.

In particular, the smaller class sizes and more individual time with teachers have been a great aid, creating the perfect incubator for my passions and interests to flourish."

Arshan, Head Boy 24/25 and Bursary Award Recipient



How do I find out more?

Any parents who would like to find out more about bursaries and their particular circumstances are welcome to contact the Bursar on 0191 274 5910 for a confidential discussion.

For further information on the application process, please contact the Head of Admissions and Communications on 0191 275 0608.

The Schools try to assist as many families qualifying for bursaries as possible; however given demand, we are not able to offer to support to all those who meet our entrance criteria and performance in the entrance assessment is taken into account when awarding bursaries.

How do you apply for a bursary?

1. Complete the Schools' application form to register your child and indicate on the form that you would like your child to be considered for a bursary award.

2. Complete the bursary application form which will be sent to you and ensure this is returned to the Bursar's Office by the closing date advised. You will need to provide proof of your income and assets, such as P60s, payslips, HMRC self-assessment forms, mortgage statements, recent benefit statements, council tax bills, bank statements, etc. If you are self- employed or the owner of a company, copies of your latest accounts will be required.

3. Please be aware that, if you do not apply for bursary assistance at the time of application and in the normal timescale for applications, it will not be possible to consider any late applications.

4. Please note that failure to answer all questions/complete the bursary application form properly or to provide the requested supporting information will result in an application not being considered.

5. Incomplete applications will be returned and will only be considered once the necessary information has been supplied.

Bursary awards are limited so please ensure the form is complete at the initial submission stage as funds may have already been allocated by the time your application is considered.

6. The Schools will then assess your eligibility for a bursary. Our staff may make an appointment to visit you at home or contact you to seek clarification of any information in support of your application.

7. Your child's academic performance will be the key consideration when the Schools are deciding whether or not to award a bursary. The Schools will also consider all the information gained about your child during the selection process in order to assess their academic performance and their individual need for the type of education offered by Dame Allan's.

8. If you are eligible and the Schools feel your child would thrive here, the Schools will send you details of the bursary it can offer your family at the same time it offers your child a place.

9. All bursary awards are communicated in writing by email. Parents should be aware that any informal discussions, telephone conversations, meetings etc. do not constitute the award of a bursary.

10. If the Schools are unable to provide bursary support and provided your child satisfies the Schools' entrance requirements, a full fee-paying place will still be offered to your child.

Sixth Form Bursaries

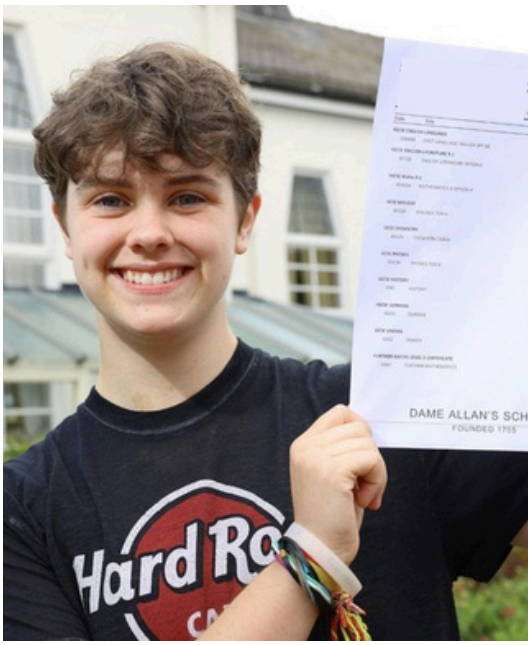
Bursaries in the Sixth Form are awarded at the discretion of the Director of Sixth Form.

Applicants for the Sixth Form are also eligible for a Don Walker bursary. This bursary is means-tested and conditional upon GCSE results. The Don Walker bursary is offered initially to current students whose parents fulfil the same criteria as our regular bursary holders, and then to the wider public. As Sixth Form awards are dependent on the results of public exams, any awards will only be communicated once exam results have been issued and the Schools have had an opportunity to consider all results.

"For anyone in the future who may be given the opportunity to benefit from a Sixth Form bursary, I would tell them to go for it! It's something that is there to support you, so also don't be shy to make enquiries if this is something that might be beneficial to you and your family.

Bursary awards really can change your life. Mine has allowed me to keep learning with my friends in a stable environment, massively helping my transition to A Levels. It's a great foundation and has allowed me to keep embracing all the opportunities that Dame Allan's has to offer."

Sián, 24/25 Don Walker Bursary Award Recipient



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