

## **FAQ – OS Bursary Fund**

### **Who is the bursary for?**

Our initial aim was to support a local child to enter the school as a day pupil at age 11 (Year 7) in September 2019 on a 100% bursary to cover the student throughout their time in the school until they leave after the 6th form. Thanks to the generosity of over 60 OS we have now been able to raise the funding for the first year of tuition for the student and are close to completing the funding for year 2.

Once we have completed the fundraising for this student, we would hope to be able to fund further bursaries in the future, both domestic and international for Y9 and Sixth Form.

### **What does it cover?**

The bursary will cover the annual school fees. Any further costs will be supported through general funds raised by the Sevenoaks School Foundation towards the bursary programme.

### **Will the child have access to funds for extracurricular activities and expenses?**

Currently through the generosity of donors to the wider bursary programme, the Sevenoaks School Foundation provides support towards the extras for all bursary holders (no matter which body or individual or group has funded the fees). This covers extra expenses such as uniform and some discretionary money for school trips, etc.

### **How does the school look to attract suitable candidates?**

The school has links with a number of local primary schools for a variety of outreach activities. Through the outreach work the school can promote the bursary programme to the 24 local primary schools they currently work with in order to encourage suitable candidates to apply. In 2018 the school had a record number of applications to their bursary programme, however due to funding constraints they were only able to fund 6 full and 4 partial bursaries.

The school is also working with the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation (Royal SpringBoard). Royal SpringBoard are a charity who help place disadvantaged young people on full bursaries in schools around the UK. Royal SpringBoard have helped the school to find students to enter the 6<sup>th</sup> Form on boarding bursaries.

### **What criteria are in place for applicants and how are they selected?**

The household income of the child's parents must be less than £40,000 for a full bursary. Families are independently means assessed to ensure they meet the relevant criteria.

All bursary candidates must go through the standard entry process – exams and a group interview. The school is keen to ensure that successful applicants have the suitable skills and motivation to be a well-rounded Sevenoaks School pupil.

### **What happens if sufficient funds for a full bursary are not raised?**

Having done some research amongst several years of OS, we are confident there is sufficient appetite to get a single bursary off the ground, and indeed we hope several as we build up a donor base over the years.

However, in the unfortunate event that we cannot attract enough donors to make this work, money already donated will go into the broader bursary funding of the Foundation (ring-fenced strictly for bursaries). All donors will be informed and given the option to cease their monthly direct debits or to continue donating to the general bursary fund.

**What will happen if the bursary sees a drop off rate over time? Will the student be able to continue their education if funding falls short?**

In the unlikely event that, subsequent to attracting sufficient donors, donations drop off and impact the sustainability of the bursary, the Foundation will cover any shortfall to ensure that the child is able to complete their Sevenoaks education.

**What will happen to funds should the donations exceed the cost of one bursary?**

Our long term aim is to fund multiple bursaries, and we hope over time to continue to attract donors in order to fund more than one bursary.

**How much are school fees? Is the school giving a discount?**

The current annual fee for a child starting as a day pupil in Year 7 in 2018 is £ £23,355. The school does not give 'discounts' for bursaries. However, it has an ambition to have 10% of pupils to be funded by bursary support by 2020. As school fees only cover the cost of a Sevenoaks education, this increase in bursary support has been funded by the generosity of parents and alumni and through a specific annual allocation of operating funds by the Governors of the School.

**Will we be updated on the pupil's progress?**

Yes. For those interested in keeping up to date with the progress of the pupil, the school has, with the permission of parents, agreed to send regular (anonymous) reports to show the ongoing impact of our donations.

**Can I give a one off donation?**

Of course! We realise monthly giving is not for everyone, but we are hoping to raise the majority of the funds in this way in order to help ensure sustainable funding.

If you have further questions about the bursary fund, or are interested in finding out what else you could do to help support the cause, please contact:

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To make a donation visit <http://osonline.sevenoaksschool.org/osbursaryfund/>