

Last word...

We want you to have the best possible time here at the college and to receive the highest standard of education. Remember, you are entitled to all this extra support – if you need us, then just call, text, email, or visit our friendly Student Services team and we will help you in any way we can.

Welcome to Weymouth College. When you start with us, it's important to know what help you are entitled to. This leaflet has all the information you need about extra help and support you can get here as a looked after child or care leaver.

Support at the College

Here at the college, we have a dedicated member of staff to support you in your transition from school to college. You can access this from the moment you contact us, we can arrange extra visits to familiarise you with the site, and you can have contact and support from a member of Student Services. We can also offer one to one mentoring for your time here. If you have any concerns or questions, contact her via email;



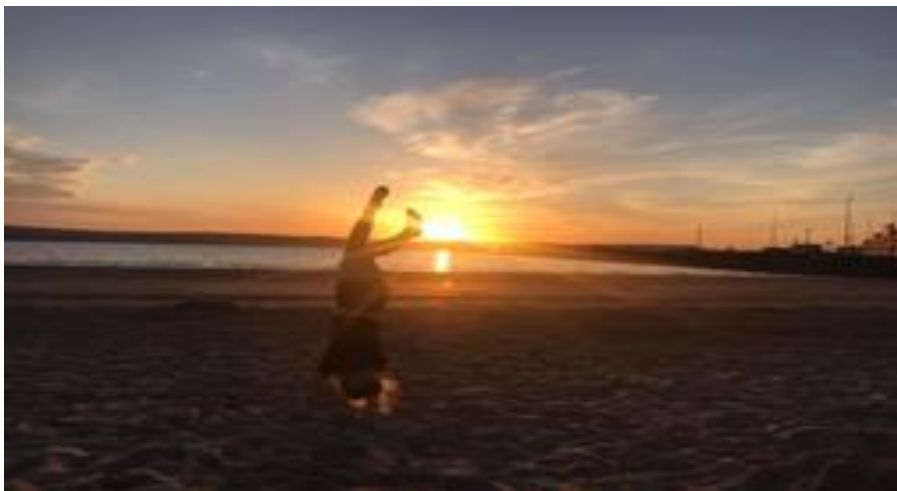
Beverley_Bull@weymouth.ac.uk



Phone/text: 01305 208771 or 07808 243 949



Or just come and visit her in room F150.



Bursaries

As a looked after child or care leaver if you are aged 16 – 18 and your 19th birthday after the 31st of August, you are entitled to the guaranteed bursary of up to £1200. Many students use this to cover the cost of a seasonal bus pass initially. More can be spent on help for books and equipment, educational visits, or other course related costs.

Apply online at:

www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/funding-finance/

and email your application form or any questions to:

collegebursaries@weymouth.ac.uk

Apprenticeship Bursary

You will be entitled to a payment of £1000 after 60 days on a qualifying apprenticeship.

The bursary is paid for by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to your training provider, who can then pass it on to you.

You can only receive this bursary once.

Further Support

Dorset Council

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childrens-social-care/children-in-care/children-in-care-and-care-leavers.aspx>

Email:

careandsupport13to25@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01305 225809

Dorset Virtual School

The Virtual School is specifically for children in care. Weymouth College works in partnership with the virtual school to ensure you receive the best possible care and education whilst you are here.

The Pan-Dorset Looked After Children (LAC)/Children in Care Health Team:

dhc.dorsetcichealth@nhs.net

Tel: 01305 361127

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

PEP's are drawn up in meetings with you, our safeguarding and welfare officer (Beverley Bull), Virtual School, your social worker, and any other relevant agencies. They take place three times a year up until you reach 18. You can expect the meeting to take up to an hour.

Looked After Child (LAC) Reviews

LAC reviews are held to review your care plan, at least every six months. They are led by your Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), who is there to make sure your views are heard. YOU can decide who you want to be invited.

Remember!

PEP's and LAC's are your chance for your voice to be heard.

Help for 19+

If your 19th birthday is on or before 31st August, with a household income of £24,000 or below and you are enrolled on an EFSA funded programme, you may be entitled to Discretionary Learner Support or Advanced Learner Loan Bursary Fund.

Advanced Learner Loan Bursary Fund is for students enrolled on an eligible course at level 3 or 4, who will be in receipt of a loan from the Student Loans Company. It is to help towards travel costs, books and equipment, visits, childcare and residential support.

Discretionary Learner Support is for students who face genuine financial barriers to stay in education to help with costs such as books, equipment, and other course related expenses.

Free School Meals

You may be entitled to Free School Meals whilst you are attending college if you are in receipt of benefits.

More information is available at;

<https://www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/funding-finance/>

Contact us at: **collegebursaries@weymouth.ac.uk**

If you decide to move on to higher education, there is a lot of support available to you as a care leaver.

We do have higher education courses here at Weymouth College, so this extra support could be available to even if you don't move away for your education.

Dorset Council

If you go into Higher Education at the College, you are entitled to financial support. Dorset Council will pay you £2000 over the duration of your course as a care leaver, on top of the funding you can receive from Student Finance for the tuition fees and maintenance loan.

Student Loans

You can apply for a student loan to cover the cost of your tuition. All of our higher education courses are recognised as a qualifying course to receive student finance for your tuition fees.

See <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

Extra Finance

Anyone can apply for a **maintenance loan**, to help with the cost of living while a student of higher education. There are 2 levels; basic maintenance loan, which is not means tested, and full maintenance loan, which is dependent on your household income.

Childcare Grant – to help towards childcare costs if you are a parent.

Adult Dependents Grant – a grant you can apply for if an adult depends on you financially.

Disability Student Allowance – grants to meet extra course costs because of a disability.

Council tax – as a full-time student, you won't be counted for council tax purposes.