

13th March 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Student Finance

I hope that you are well. It was great to see lots of you at parents' evening on Thursday. I wanted to write with a separate update to advise you about the Student Finance applications process, which has recently opened.

The following information has also been emailed to students and will be explained in assembly too. Applications for student finance for the academic year 2023/2024 have opened in the last few days. The vast majority of students will be eligible to apply for a tuition fee loan (to cover the cost of their tuition fees) and a maintenance/living costs loan (to cover the costs of things like accommodation and food if they are going to live away from home). These are loans that students only start to pay back bit by bit once they earn above a certain salary in later life. Some students will also be eligible for certain grants, which provide additional support money that depend on family circumstances, and which they would never have to pay back. Students can find out what they are eligible for by using the student finance calculator (click [here](#)).

Students can then go to the website at the following link to begin their application: <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/>
They can watch an application information video at this link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjSrORqF1vg>.

In order to apply, students will need their passport and national insurance number to hand. The deadline for them to apply in order to receive funding in time for September is 19th May 2023, but they should aim to apply as soon as possible in order to secure their funding. [This link](#) also provides some useful information.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

On a separate note, it is natural that the upcoming few months in the lead up to the summer exams will be challenging for students. I therefore wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the following support that is available to your child. Students are, of course, reminded of this on a regular basis:

- As students' Head of Year, I always have an open door policy. Students are reminded that they can see or email me at any time with any questions or concerns they may have. They can also speak to their form tutor.
- Weekly one-to-one mentoring can be set up for students who are struggling with their mental health. This involves a weekly conversation with me or another designated member of staff to provide additional support.
- Weekly Tuesday assemblies regularly focus on wellbeing strategies, including work-life balance and healthy sleeping, eating and exercise habits.
- Students are reminded that they can also access free online counselling at www.kooth.com, as well as a range of other useful external support websites [linked here](#).

Should parents/guardians have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Peacock
Head of Year 13