Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the bursary application process

1. What is a bursary?

Bursaries are means tested awards which are given to help families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford some or all of the school fees. This is also referred to as Financial Aid. Details of current fees payable are available on our website https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/fees/ .

2. What is a scholarship?

A scholarship recognises a boy's achievement regardless of financial need and therefore does not carry any automatic fee remission.

3. What does the bursary cover?

The bursary covers full or part school fees, which include tuition and boarding. Parents will be responsible for the payment of all additional extras.

4. What level of bursary can be awarded?

The level of bursary is means tested and can vary between 5% and 100% of school fees.

5. Does the bursary ever cover extras?

Depending on the parents' financial circumstances, a bursary of 100% bursary may be extended to provide additional assistance in order to cover all reasonable school extras. This may, in certain cases, also cover the cost of uniform, laptop and the Acceptance Fee (£3,480 in respect of academic year 24/25).

6. What are the costs for additional extras?

This is a difficult question to answer as it will depend on the societies, clubs or other activities in which your son participates. However, there are standard charges that are applicable to all boys and these include dry cleaning of suits, House subscriptions, membership of the Old Etonians' Association and tutorial outings. These charges total approximately £350 per term. For budgetary purposes we estimate that extras would range from £400 to £1,000 per term but could be more if, for example, they included the tuition of multiple instruments.

7. How many boys are in receipt of a bursary at the School?

In 2023/24, 247 boys received fee reductions; 99 of these boys paid no fees at all.

8. How do I notify you that I would like to apply for a bursary?

This will depend on the entry route into the School. The first step is to register your son with the Admissions Department (admissions@etoncollege.org.uk).

For the normal entry route, a boy may be registered up until 30 June of the school year he turns 10 (UK school Year 5). As part of the registration process, all parents complete a financial declaration. You will need to indicate that you require financial aid and complete the supplementary information section. The form should be returned to the Fees and Bursaries team (bursaries@etoncollege.org.uk).

The form will be sent either with a 'Details Update' form (March of UK school Year 5 if already registered by then) or the registration confirmation email (if registered after March of UK school Year 5).

After this the only route of entry will be through scholarships or Sixth Form entry (full fee-paying), which open in Year 8 (for Year 9 entry) and Year 11 (for Sixth Form entry).

More details about the bursary application process and current timelines are available on our website at https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/

9. When do I need to apply for a bursary?

Please refer to the appendix `Assessment and Bursary Timeline for Applications'. The exact date applicable for your son's year of entry will be communicated to you when you apply.

A bursary application which is not received by the published deadline will not be considered. Funds are allocated over two years before a boy starts at the School. Once the budget is allocated no additional bursary awards can be made. It is therefore necessary to set the deadline for the submission of bursary applications at an early stage in order to manage the allocation of charitable funds and confirm the outcomes of the Bursaries Committees to parents in a timely fashion.

10. Does the bursary award last for my son's entire time at Eton?

Prospective parents should not assume that an initial bursary award will continue at the same level throughout their son's time at Eton.

All bursary awards will be subject to an annual review which will involve the submission of your updated financial circumstances for reassessment by the Bursaries Committee. Where there are no material changes in financial circumstances, the level of award will not change from year to year.

11. Who decides on the level of bursary awarded?

Following the submission of your bursary application form, your financial circumstances are presented to the Bursaries Committee by the Fees and Bursaries Accountant. The Committee has 8 members including the Bursar, Deputy Head (Partnerships), Director of Admissions, and other members of staff involved in the Admissions process.

12. If funds are limited how do you allocate the funds between applicants?

The level of the bursary required is not influenced by the academic ability of the boy but by the extent of financial need. Although the School is fortunate to have significant bursary funds, designed to widen access to Eton, it does not have sufficient funds to satisfy all the bursary applications received. Since funding is limited, bursary awards will be allocated by the School in accordance with the boy's ranking in the assessment process.

13. What happens if I am awarded a partial bursary and decide that I cannot afford to pay the remaining school fees?

The bursary assessment process looks in detail at your ability to pay the fees. If the School makes a bursary award, and you accept the conditional offer of a place at the School, you will be expected to pay what the Committee has determined you can afford to pay. This may require you to make some

adjustments. It is up to you to decide if you are willing to make those adjustments.

14. How does the process work?

The bursary application process is coordinated and managed by the Fees and Bursaries Team. It is separate from the Admissions process.

Once you have registered your son with Admissions and confirmed the need for financial aid, the Fees and Bursaries Team will send you the link to our online Bursary Application form with instructions on how to register on our system. This will require you to make a complete and accurate declaration of your current income and expenditure as well as assets and liabilities.

The bursary application form must be submitted by the given deadline. Our Fees and Bursaries Team will be available to support you by email or by phone to guide you through the process. You will be asked to agree to a home visit by an external Company, Bursaries Administration Limited and this is a condition of applying for a bursary.

It is quite usual for the Fees and Bursaries Team to contact you to discuss your application. This may be via email or on the phone. We reserve the right to request further information and documentation in order to validate your application.

The Fees and Bursaries Team present their analysis of each case for the Bursaries Committee to review and make a bursary award decision.

Any applicable bursary award will be confirmed in writing at the same time as Admissions communicates the offer of a conditional place at the School.

15. Which parent should make the application?

All parents who have parental responsibility for the applicant must complete a Bursary Application Form.

This applies to divorced and separated parents, regardless of their current contribution to the applicant's educational costs or living expenses. In such cases, the details from one parent will remain confidential and will not be shared with the other parent. Please note parents will need separate email addresses in order to complete the bursary application for their son. If one parent has sole responsibility through a court order then evidence of this must be provided.

16. My son would also like to apply for a King's Scholarship or Music Scholarship, can I wait until these routes open when he is in school year 8 before applying for a bursary?

Any bursary application must be made in connection with the boy's principal and initial entry route to the School only.

If you register your son by the end of UK school Year 5 for a place at the School for entry at age 13, you should apply for a bursary before he sits the ISEB Test when he is in Year 6 (the deadline will be provided by the Fees and Bursaries Team).

Boys who already have a conditional place and subsequently apply for a King's Scholarship or Music Scholarship are not eligible for a bursary award unless there has been a significant and unforeseeable change in circumstances.

If you register your son in Year 8 for a place at the School as an unregistered candidate in respect of the Music Scholarship or King's Scholarship entry routes, you will have the opportunity to apply for a bursary at that time.

More details about the process and current timelines are available on our website at https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/ .

17. What information will I need to provide with my bursary application?

You will be prompted to attach some key documents as part of the application process and you will not be able to submit your Bursary Application Form without these. The Bursary Application Form is necessarily searching and the School makes no apologies for that. The type of documentation we would expect to see will vary depending on your personal situation. Some typical examples include:

- Payslips (last 3 months), latest P60 and March 2023 payslip
- HMRC tax returns and calculation page (last 2 years)
- Full set of Company accounts
- All bank accounts, savings, credit card statements (last 3 months)
- Social Security Benefits confirmation letter(s)
- Mortgage statement (not older than 12 months) for all properties
- Investment portfolio valuation report
- Share ownership
- Car finance documentation

18. What is the threshold income to be eligible for a bursary?

We do not publish guidance on qualifying income levels as each application is assessed on a case-by-case basis as income is only one of the many factors we consider.

19. What are the factors considered in assessing applications?

Bursaries are awarded solely at the School's direction and each application is considered on a case-by-case basis. Further details on this can be found in our Guidance on Bursaries document.

20. I am not sure I will need a bursary, can I apply after the deadline set for my son's selected entry route?

Such a question may arise if you have savings to cover fees for part of your son's schooling, or your income varies widely from year to year and you believe you could afford full fees on a good year.

The answer is No. If you do not return the financial aid form by the published deadline, you are confirming that you are able to afford full fees and extras for the duration of your son's schooling, should he be offered a conditional offer of a place at the School.

We appreciate that a family's financial circumstances can vary from year to year and that the timing for initiating the bursary application is relatively early in the Admissions process. However, you should bear in mind that if you decide not to pursue a bursary application by the deadline applicable for your entry route, it is unlikely that any funding will be available at a later date. The Bursaries Committee is unlikely to consider an application received in respect of a boy already at the School where no previous bursary application has been submitted as funding is allocated over two years before a boy starts at the School and remains in place for the full five years they are at the School (subject to an annual review).

The only exception would be for parents who have experienced an unexpected and significant change in their circumstances such as a bereavement or critical illness.

21. If I have two children at the School, can I get a bursary for both?

The analysis of a family financial circumstances will be conducted in the same way for each child but the resulting decision may differ for each child. There is no automatic discount for siblings.

22. Can a bursary be withdrawn once it has been awarded?

If during the bursary application or annual review process, it has been found that the Parents have fraudulently, knowingly or recklessly provided false or incomplete information, the Bursaries Committee reserve the right to redirect the charitable funds as deemed appropriate and withdraw the boy's place at the School.

23. Who will know that my son is in receipt of a bursary award?

This information is confidential and only provided to those who need to know. This includes members of the Bursaries Committee, the Fees and Bursaries Team, the Admissions team and the boy's Housemaster and Dame. Your son's tutor as well as your son's other teachers will not be aware as the information is kept strictly confidential. From time to time, a boy's bursary award may be funded by an external trust. Where this occurs, the charitable trust will be provided with his details and reports will be provided to that Trust on your son's progress at the School.

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise. It is the School's policy not to tell boys that they are receiving a bursary, nor to identify award holders to any other pupil. Parents are welcome to tell their son.

24. Who should I contact if I have any queries?

For Admissions queries, please email admissions@etoncollege.org.uk

For Bursaries queries, please email Bursaries@etoncollege.org.uk