

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

April 1st 2020

Dear Student,

The Harpur Trust University Scheme 2020

The Scheme

The **Harpur Trust University Scheme** is a bursary programme helps students from lower income families attend university and make the most of their academic potential. It is open to students living in Bedford Borough, from a participating school or college identified by the Harpur Trust, including Kimberley College.

Students from Kimberley College and Wootton Academy Trust have benefitted from the Harpur Trust Bursary scheme for a number of years. This year there is no limit to the number of applications that can be sent to the Harpur Trust from each school or college, however not all will be successful.

The method of selecting successful students used to be at the discretion of each school/college following an internal process. With the current method, the final decision is made by the Harpur Trust, based upon the quality and worthiness of the application, and the supporting documentation.

The Criteria

The criteria for the bursary awards are outlined below:

- Are you hoping to go to University but concerned about the cost?
- Will you be aged 19 or under on 31st August in the year in which you apply?
- Are you from a low-income family?
- Are you looking to study a full time undergraduate or foundation degree course starting in Autumn 2020?
- Have you been resident in Bedford Borough for at least 2 years?

If you can answer yes to all of the above, then you may be eligible to apply for a Harpur Trust University Bursary worth £3,600.

The Process

All applicants who fulfil the criteria outlined above must have completed and submitted their application form including associated supportive evidence by **April 30th 2020**.

Applications must be filled in online this year. The Harpur Trust Office is not open to receive postal applications at this time. All applicants must have a **tutor reference** to support their application. The reference will be sent as an open reference (seen by you and the person who will write your reference) to The Harpur Trust so must be written by someone you know well such as a subject teacher. Please could you copy me into any email you send to a teacher requesting a reference, so I can monitor the process.

You must **notify your referee by Thursday 2nd April** if you would like them to write you a reference. It might be a good idea to draft key statements you would like them to include in their reference. Your

Wootton Academy Trust operates
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College

Registered in England and Wales
Company No. 7740758

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referee may know you at college but may not be aware of your personal circumstance. This is a significant aspect of the judgement criteria for whom to award a bursary.

All forms and guidance are on the Harpur Trust website. <https://www.harpurtrust.org.uk/university-bursaries>

Tutors are asked not to send the UCAS reference. The focus of the Harpur Trust bursary scheme is different from an academic reference written for university admissions. Guidance will be given to tutor to write this reference for you and a member of the Kimberley College senior leadership team will quality assure them before you send them off (should you wish).

Further support

Please feel free to get in touch with Mr Detheridge tdetheridge@wootton.beds.sch.uk if you have any further questions about the process. The Harpur Trust is available to support applicants, either by email, phone call or through The Harpur Trust Twitter feed, which can be found at @TheHarpurTrust

Covid 19 – Update

Yesterday I was sent the following information from the Harpur Trust.

“We know students are going through an unprecedented amount of disruption at the moment and that it is uncertain the extent to which they can plan ahead. However, we would like to let you know that we will be continuing to take applications for the Harpur Trust University Scheme this term. **The deadline is the 30th April 2020.** The information and criteria guidelines are unchanged.

We can accept online applications as well as downloaded versions emailed to us. Please **do not send** forms to us via post as there is currently nobody in our office meaning that the form may be delayed in coming through to us.”

- Harpur Trust March 30th 2020

The Harpur Trust has also updated the bursary webpage with information related to the current outbreak of the Coronavirus.

This bursary is a great opportunity to gain financial support for your future studies and we promote it wholeheartedly to our year 13 students. If you are heading off to university this year, and fulfil the criteria, you have nothing to lose by making an application. Remember we are here to support you, go for it!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Tim Detheridge
Principal, Kimberley 16-19 STEM College.

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