



PLANT YNG NGHYMURU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Benefits and Entitlements- Education

A young person's guide for
Caerphilly

Resource 7 of 12



You may also like to read these resources:

- Benefits and Entitlements
- Money- I need some
- Budgeting
- Getting Around- Caerphilly CBC

Getting Ready Project



If you are looking to go to College there is support available to you. Let's start with grants.

Useful websites

<https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/fe.aspx>

<https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/get-funding-train-learn>

<https://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/support/financial-support>

<https://www.cymoedd.ac.uk/en/student-support-for-learners/>

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

This is an allowance you receive when you attend College.

You:

- must be 16-18
- must live in a house with low income or be a care leaver.
- will receive £30 per week
- must carry on attending College to carry on receiving the money

Try to apply for this by end June before your course starts.

For further information speak to Student Support Services

Caerphilly 16+ Team

You may also be able to ask for help to:

- pay registration fees
- buy equipment such as laptops, books, clothing relevant to your course
- pay for course related trips

Welsh Government Learning Grant

If you are aged 19+ you can get some support towards the cost of studying:

- you can get up to £1500 for a full time course
- you can get up to £750 for a part time course
- how much you get depends on your income

It is recommended you apply by end June before your course starts.

Princes Trust

For young people aged 16-30

You can apply for help towards the cost of:

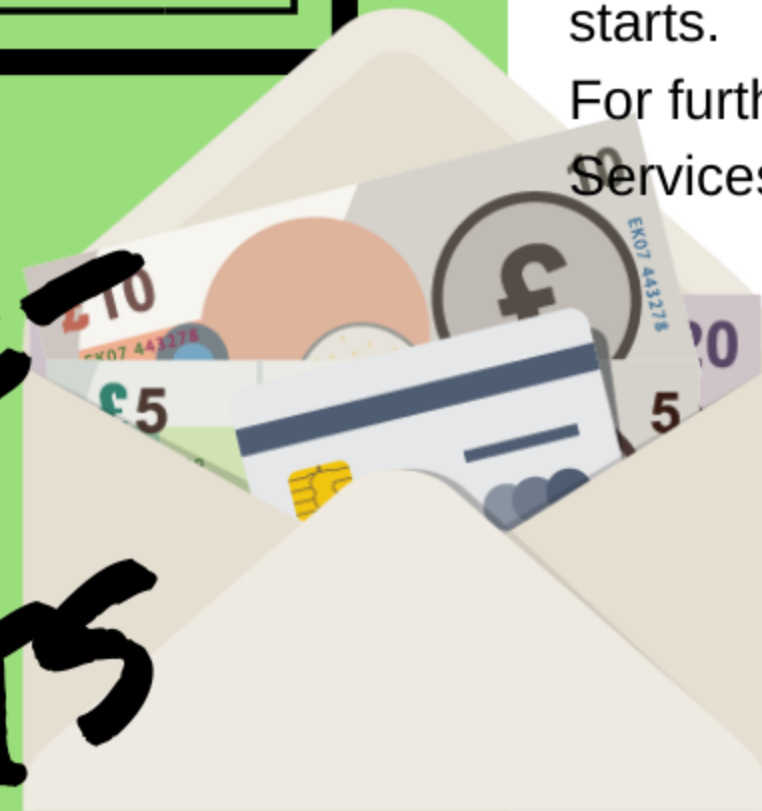
- course fees
- equipment

You have to be:

- studying less than 14 hours per week or not in compulsory education
- unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week



COLLEGE GRANTS





This page describes the support available to care experienced young people attending Coleg y Cymoedd.

Key Contacts and more information

The point of contact for care experienced young people in Coleg y Cymoedd is Alison Roberts (May 2023)

- Alison.Roberts@cymoedd.ac.uk
- 01443 810086

For more information about Learner Support go to:

<https://www.cymoedd.ac.uk/en/students/support-for-learners/>

COLEG Y
CYMOEDD

Financial Contingency Fund

- Coleg y Cymoedd have a fund to help vulnerable students
- You can apply for help with college equipment you need

Support before you get to College

Coleg y Cymoedd will support you throughout the process of applying to attend the College:

- Receive information about grants and travel etc in the January before the start of term
- A member of staff will attend any relevant school reviews
- Liaise with 16+ social services team where appropriate
- Offer to attend advice days in March before start of term- to let you see the campus, meet key staff etc
- Opportunity to visit College again during June
- Receive 'what to expect' information and key contact information for when you start

First weeks

When you first start in College the team will:

- support you during the transition from school into College with 1to1 meetings
- Drop in sessions
- Support with any travel issues
- Ensure free meal entitlement is in place

Support available on campus

As a care experienced young person you will have:

- A designated contact (Alison)
- Free meal while in College (16-17 year olds)
- Free travel (students up to 19 years old)
- Help with your next step- into higher education or employment such as helping you fill in a UCAS application
- Access to welfare officers who can help with sexual health, financial support, housing issues etc.
- Regular contact from the nominated person every half term



This page describes the support available to care experienced young people attending Coleg y Cymoedd.

Key Contacts and more information

The point of contact for care experienced young people in Coleg y Gwent is Sian Hughes (May 2023)

- sian.hughes@coleggwent.ac.uk
- 01495 333019

For more information about Learner Support go to:

<https://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/support>

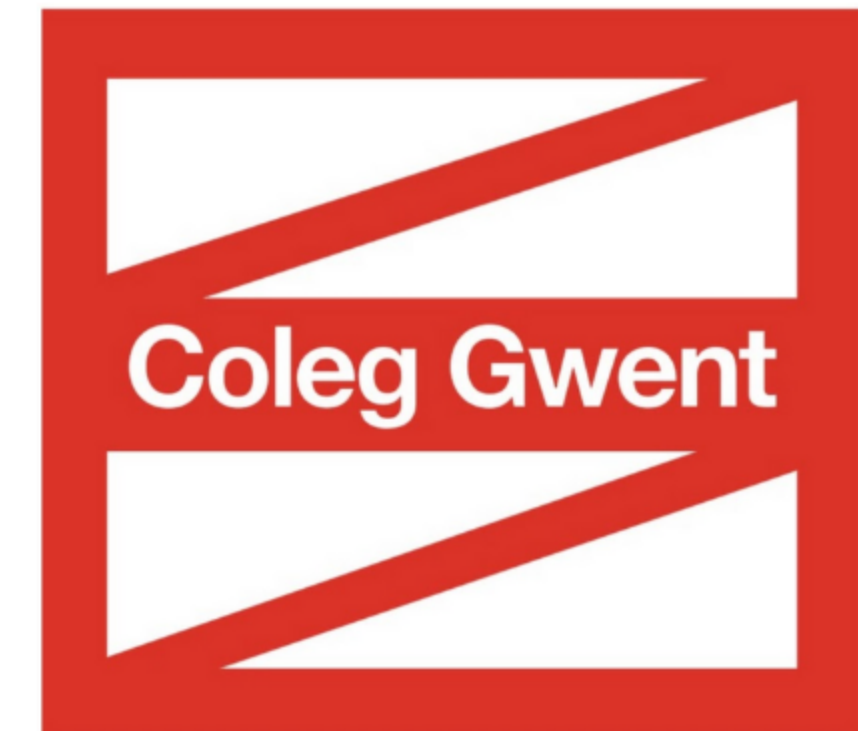
**COLEG
GWENT**

Financial Contingency Fund

- Coleg Gwent have a fund you may be able to access to help vulnerable students. Email financesupport@coleggwent.ac.uk
- You can apply for help with college equipment you need, towards a bus pass or child care costs. or to pay for your meals in college if you are under 19 years old.

Inspire to Achieve

- Coleg Gwent have a project to support students who are struggling:
- you can receive support with the issues affecting your attendance



Support available on campus

As a care experienced young person you will have:

- A designated contact
- Help with your next step- into higher education or employment such as helping you fill in a UCAS application
- Access to welfare officers who can help with sexual health, financial support, housing issues etc.



This page describes the support available to care experienced young people attending The College, Merthyr Tydfil.

Key Contacts and more information

There are two individuals you can contact as a care experienced young person:

- Judith Mulry- 01685 726198;
j.mulry@merthyr.ac.uk
- Caroline Donaldson- 01685 726016;
c.donaldson@merthyr.ac.uk

For more information about learner support go to:

<http://www.merthyr.ac.uk/content/learner-support?lang=en>

THE COLLEGE
MERTHYR
TYDFIL

Financial Support

As a care experienced young person you will have:

- Free meals while in College
- Free travel (learners up to 19 years old)
- Learners aged over 19 - transport is means tested with reimbursement from the college
- A £500 bursary paid over three instalments
- The enrolment fee will be paid by the College
- If you need uniform/kit for your course such as sports, the College is able to help
- If you need equipment for your course such as hairdressing, the College is able to help
- If you need a DBS check for your course such as childcare, the College is able to help
- You are able to apply to the College if you are running out of money.
- Financial contingency fund is available.

Inspire to Achieve (I2A)

The College, Merthyr Tydfil have a project to support learners who have:

- health concerns
- financial problems
- emotional issues
- family relationships
- social issues
- learning and education concerns
- wellbeing concerns

First weeks

When you first start in College the team will:

- support you during the transition from school into College with a 1to1 meeting
- Ensure free meal entitlement is in place
- Ensure your enrolment fee is paid by the College.
- Ensure your EMA claim is completed

Support available on campus

As a care experienced young person you will have:

- A designated contact
- Access to the College nursery if you are a parent
- Help with your next step- into higher education or employment such as helping you fill in a UCAS application
- Regular contact from your lead worker
- A worker will attend your review meetings, if appropriate
- Access to a counselling service
- Access one of the many 'enrichment' activities such as glosports, DIY, book club, gaming, board games and much more
- Access to a nurse
- Access to a chaplain
- Support with any wellbeing issues

Useful information

For general information about University life take a look at:

- <https://www.themix.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nus.org.uk/>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/university-life>
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/life/what-university-is-really-like>



Been to College and thinking about the next step? Here we will look at support you can receive if you want to go to University

Caerphilly 16+ Team

- Caerphilly CBC will offer some financial support with accommodation and can be offered for years depending on progress, attendance and subject to reviews.
- You will also be helped to apply for student finance (loans and grants) from Student Finance Wales
- They may be able to help with other costs such as laptop, graduation etc.



The University you are applying to may have its own bursaries or grants to support care experienced young people

Special Support Grant

This is available to:

- Single parents
- Those on the housing related part of Universal Credit

If you are eligible for this grant you could receive a significant amount per year.

Maintenance Loan

- You can apply for a maintenance loan.
- The amount you receive depends on your income
- If you are on a low household income some of the money you receive may also be a grant which means you won't have to pay some of the money back.

If you want to go to a University further afield, go to the Propel website to see what support is offered to care experienced young people.

<https://propel.org.uk/UK/>

HIGHER
EDUCATION



Thinking of going to University? Here you can get a flavour of what support is available using Cardiff University as an example

Nominated person

Most Universities have a nominated person that can offer support to care experienced young people.

Cardiff University Care Experienced Lead -
Name: Lena Smith
Email: studentconnect@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4787

Cardiff University Pre Entry Support

If you have said you are care experienced in your application or at your College, the University and/or its partners will:

- Support you to attend open days
- Offer the chance to go to summer schools
- Give positive additional consideration to your application
- Be part of the "confident futures programme" (restarting Sep 2022) a programme to help care experienced young people meet their potential.

Email: outreach@cardiff.ac.uk



- Make sure you state on application you are a care experienced young person (this is confidential)
- This helps the University give you better support

Accommodation support

Cardiff University offers year around accommodation to care leavers so you don't need to worry about where you will stay during the holidays.

Money!

There are a number of financial initiatives run by the University to support you:

- A bursary (if you are under 25)- where you could claim up to £3000
- Hardship Fund- for any student if things are really tough financially
- Residential bursary- you could apply to this fund to help towards rent etc
- Books- there is a fund you can apply to for help to pay for essential course books

Wellbeing

- Going to University can be stressful
- It may involve big changes such as moving to a new area, making new friends etc.
- Make sure you look after your mental health and wellbeing to ensure you keep a positive state of mind
- For wellbeing tips and support go to:
<https://platform.org/project/young-people/>

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES

Nominated person

As a care experienced young person going to University of South Wales you will be given a nominated person who will support you during your time in Uni.



Thinking of going to University? Here you can get a flavour of what support is available at University of South Wales.

Money!

There is financial support available through the University:

- Bursary- you will receive a £1000 bursary when you show evidence you have been in care
- Student Money Advice Team- will offer support applying for grants/loans; support with money management and budgeting.
- Graduation Award- the University will pay the key costs of graduating such as graduation photos.
- Student Support Fund- if during the term you are struggling with money you may be able to access this fund.



- Make sure you state on your UCAS application that you are a care experienced young person
- This helps the University give you better support

A place to stay

University of South Wales offers care experienced young people access to accommodation all year, not just at term time

Wellbeing

- Going to University can be stressful
- It may involve big changes such as moving to a new area, making new friends.
- Make sure you look after your mental health and wellbeing to ensure you keep a positive state of mind
- For wellbeing tips and support go to:
<https://platform.org/project/young-people/>

On campus support

How much you access depends on what you need but the University offers:

- Wellbeing Service
- Careers Advice
- Support with study skills
- Support to get work experience (GO Wales)

For more information go to:

<https://advice.southwales.ac.uk/a2z/support-services/>