

26 March 2026

Dear Headteacher,

Due to Kent County Council's changes to the Transport Policy for students aged 19-years-old and over, EKC Group has ring fenced some of its bursary funding for this cohort where they have previously travelled to school by taxi/minibus. This will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is not expected that the bursary money allocated to students that successfully apply will cover their transport costs in most cases. This means that parents/carers need to apply to Kent County Council (KCC) for additional support as soon as possible. This additional support will be a mileage payment from KCC in arears at a rate of 45 pence per mile, unless there are exceptional circumstances where different transport arrangements are required. It's important that parents/carers apply for additional support from KCC as soon as possible to meet their deadline of 31 May 2026. KCC will log all applications, and they will remain open until the outcome of any college bursary applications have been provided. Parents/carers will be able to make a college bursary application from 5 May 2026.

We understand that these changes may be worrying for parents/carers who will no longer have transport funded and organised for them.

As we currently do not know if one of our Group's colleges is the named provider for your school leavers, who currently have a taxi/minibus to school, it would help us if you could share this letter and the attached flowchart with the relevant parents / carers.

We are holding in person and online briefings at our Colleges which will help to explain the process we will go through, and how the changes might affect them. The sessions are listed below with information on how parents / carers can book to attend:

#### EKC Broadstairs College

- In-person session 22 April 2026 at 4.30pm
- Online session 29 April 2026 at 4.30pm
- Please RSVP by emailing [ray.bryce@ekcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:ray.bryce@ekcgroup.ac.uk).

#### EKC Canterbury College

- In-person session 22 April 2026, 3pm – 5pm
- Online session 22 April 2026, 3pm – 5pm
- Please RSVP by completing [this form](#).

EKC Folkestone College

- In-person session 23 April 2026 at 5pm
- Online session 28 April 2026 at 1pm
- Please RSVP by emailing [Charlotte.Shaw@ekcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Shaw@ekcgroup.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely,  
Lucy McLeod  
Chief Executive Officer

# Important changes to transport for your child

Kent County Council (KCC) has changed its Transport Policy for students aged 19-25 with an EHCP who have previously received transport support.

**You will now need to follow the process below:**

## 1. Complete your online application to KCC.

We urge you to do this as soon as possible to meet their deadline of 31 May 2026. Please note, you do not need to provide your supporting evidence.

KCC will keep your application open until they have all the evidence required to make a decision. This includes the outcome of your College bursary application to us. The link to apply is at the bottom of this page.

## 2. Apply for a College bursary.

Apply for a financial support for transport from the College with a bursary application made on PayMyStudent via College website.

On EKC Website, select your College and click the 'Financial Support' page to apply. College bursary applications open on **5 May 2026**.

## 3. Complete the online application on the PayMyStudent portal and upload requested supporting evidence of household income.

## 4. Wait for your College bursary application to be processed.

Your College bursary application will be assessed against the qualifying criteria for financial support. You will receive a letter sent via email with the outcome of your application at the earliest available opportunity.

Your application for financial support for travel via College bursary was **UNSUCCESSFUL**

Your application for financial support for travel via College bursary was **SUCCESSFUL**

## 5. Provide the College bursary outcome letter to KCC to support your application with them.

The College cannot make any financial contribution to your travel costs. You will receive an outcome letter advising your bursary application has been unsuccessful and the reason for this. You can now provide this letter as evidence to support the application you have sent to KCC.

## 6. Your application journey ends, or you need to send your outcome letter to KCC if you need more funding.

The college will make a financial contribution up to a maximum of £2000 per student (paid in monthly instalments via bank transfer). You will receive an outcome letter confirming the amounts and payment dates via email. **If the bursary award does not cover your overall transport costs, you will need to make a further application to KCC. The deadline to submit your application is 31 May 2026.**

You can find out more about the changes KCC have made and how to apply to KCC for support with transport here: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-transport/school-transport-for-children-with-special-educational-needs/post-16-transport-options-for-send-young-people/apply-for-post-16-transport-assistance#changes\\_2026\\_2027](https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-transport/school-transport-for-children-with-special-educational-needs/post-16-transport-options-for-send-young-people/apply-for-post-16-transport-assistance#changes_2026_2027)