

26 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to let you know that Kent County Council (KCC) has changed its Transport Policy for students who are over the age of 19-years-old and who have an EHCP or SEN Support Needs.

For the 2026/27 academic year, parents/carers will now have to apply for a college bursary and provide evidence of this to KCC, if additional transport support is required. You will be able to make a college bursary application from 5 May 2026, but you can apply to KCC now and should do this as soon as possible to meet their application deadline of 31 May 2026. KCC will then log your application, and it will remain open until you have provided KCC with the outcome of your college bursary application.

You can find out more about the changes that Kent County Council is making at this link: [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).

We understand that you may be worried about these changes, and we are doing everything we can to provide you with relevant information and support. We will be holding an in-person meeting for parents and carers at EKC Folkestone College on the **23 April 2026 at 5pm** where we can guide you through what the changes are, how they might affect your young person, and what we are doing to try and help. You can book into this event by emailing **Charlotte.Shaw@ekcgroup.ac.uk**. We will also be holding an online briefing on **28 April 2026 at 1pm** for those who are unable to travel to us in person. You can book onto this by emailing **Charlotte.Shaw@ekcgroup.ac.uk**.

To help with this situation, we have put some of our bursary funding aside for eligible students, which you can apply for, to help meet your young person's transport costs. If your young person meets the eligibility criteria, you can apply for up to £2,000 from this bursary from 5 May 2026. As this bursary is for all eligible students, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible, as this money is allocated on a first come, first served basis. The measures we are putting in place are subject to change, depending on the Department for Education's bursary funding guidance, which is normally released in April. We will update you on any changes to this at the briefing we hold.

Yours sincerely,  
Clare Brown  
EKC Folkestone College Principal

# 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)