

April 2011

Dear student



EMA arrangement for next year (2011-2012) LATEST INFORMATION

We know that many of you are worried about receiving financial help next year because the EMA scheme has been ended. This letter gives you the latest information, but please be aware that it is not a guarantee of funding and the situation may change.

Last week, the Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove) announced new transitional arrangements for students currently receiving EMA.

The amount you will receive next year depends on when you started to receive EMA, and how much you receive each week:

If you received your Notice of Entitlement and started your course in 2009-2010, and you continue in further education, you will receive your weekly payments next year at the same rate.

If you received your Notice of Entitlement and started your course in 2010-2011, are continuing in further education, and you currently receive the full £30 each week, you will receive a guaranteed £20 next year.

We do not yet know how these payments will be made. You can read full information on <http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentssupport/a0064057/financial-support-for-learning>

Other help

- The college will be receiving Learner Support Funding which it will use to help students who are facing financial difficulties. This will be more than last year, but we have no further details. As soon as we do, we will tell you and organise an application process.
- There will be a bursary for young people who are in care, leaving care or who receive Income Support in their own right because they do not live with a parent.

We will keep you informed of any developments.

If you have concerns and feel you cannot afford to continue at college next year, please contact me. You can email vsmith@leek.ac.uk, drop into TL107, leave a message at reception, or talk to your tutor.

Yours sincerely

Val Smith
Director, Support for Students