

# **Educational Maintenance Allowance**

## **Academic Year 2009 – 2010**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a means tested weekly allowance payable in two week instalments in arrears during term time only. It is intended to encourage students to stay on at school in post-compulsory education.

A Learning Agreement is an agreement between a student and the school. In order to receive an EMA a student must have an acceptable Learning Agreement and it is each students responsibility to ensure he/she has a valid Learning Agreement.

The EMA is based on 100% attendance at school and students must normally be on a full time non advanced course at school and enrolled as full time i.e. attending 21 hours guided learning hours per week.

Students must apply/reapply for an EMA each academic year.

### **Eligibility**

EMA is payable to student's between 16 and 19 years of age (inclusive) for a maximum of 3 years.

### **Autumn Intake**

If you turn 16 between 1 March 2009 and 30 September 2009 you may be eligible from the start of the school term in August 2009 as long as you apply before the end of September 2009.

If you apply after the end of September 2009 you will only qualify from the Monday of the week your application is received by the Pupil, Parent Support Unit.

### **Winter Intake**

If you turn 16 between 1 October 2009 and the last day in February 2010 you may be eligible from the school term starting January 2010 as long as you apply before the end of February 2010.

If you apply after the end of February 2010 you will only qualify from the Monday of the week your application is received by the Pupil, Parent Support Unit.

Applications will NOT be processed or accepted after 31 March 2010.

## **HOUSEHOLD INCOME – IMPORTANT**

Following a review and consultation on the EMA, Scottish Ministers have decided to refocus EMA to target support more effectively at young people.

### **FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED AN EMA PRIOR TO 2009/2010 there will be three weekly payment bands of £10, £20 and £30**

Ema awards will be payable according to the total taxable household income. The sum payable will taper from the full award of £30 per week to nil in the following bandings.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>WEEKLY PAYMENT</u>
£0 - £22,403	£30.00
£22,404 -£27,465	£20.00
£27,466 -£33,156	£10.00
£33,157 >	Nil Award

### **FOR STUDENTS APPLYING AND QUALIFYING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2009/2010 there will be one EMA weekly payment band of £30**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>WEEKLY PAYMENT</u>
£0 - £22,403	£30.00
£22,404 >	Nil Award

**(for families with more than one dependent child in the household – as well as applying to all children under the age of 16, this applies to those who are over the age of 16 and up to the age of 25, if they are in further or higher education and are parentally supported)**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>WEEKLY PAYMENT</u>
£0 - £20,351	£30.00
£20,352 >	Nil Award

**(for families with a single dependant child in the household)**

### **Bonus Payments**

Students may be eligible for 2 bonus payments per academic year subject to certain criteria such as progression, retention and behaviour.

### **Payment and Bank Account Details**

EMA's are paid directly into the bank account of the young person. If a student changes their bank account details during the year they should inform the Pupil, Parent Support Unit in writing (signed by the student only) urgently to enable them to continue to receive their payments regularly.

**Applications will be available from** all Secondary Schools, the Pupil, Parent Support Unit, Lochside Education Centre, Lochside Road, Dumfries, DG2 0EL. Tel: 01387 720774, your Local Area Customer Services Centre or Education and Social Work Services, Woodbank, Dumfries during the summer break.