

## Educational Services

Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education: Lyndsay McRoberts

**Head Teacher: Mary Byrne**

Kyle Academy  
Overmills Road  
AYR

KA7 3LR

Tel: 01292 612338

Email: [kyle.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:kyle.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Our Ref: LA/EMcK

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Kyle Academy we work hard to minimise the cost of the school day and ensure equal access to opportunities. We want to make all families within our community aware of the financial supports available to them, below is a list of funding opportunities and grants.

### Government Initiatives

- 1. Free School Meals**
- 2. Clothing Grants**
- 3. Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**
- 4. Free Bus Travel**
- 5. Free Laptop/Device**
- 6. Best Start Grant / Scottish Child Payment**

### South Ayrshire Council

- 7. Information and Advice Hub**

### Kyle Academy Initiatives

- 8. Kyle Academy Clothing Bank**
- 9. Study Club / Breakfast Club**
- 10. School Trips**

More information on eligibility for each support can be found overleaf.

Kind Regards

**Louise Anderson**

**Principal Teacher of Raising Attainment**



### Financial Support

Initiative	Details	Eligibility	Contact
Free School Meals	A daily payment of £2.45. This is reset every school day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Tax Credit where household income is £19,995 or less</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit where the household income is £9,552 or less</li> <li>• Universal Credit where earned income is £796 or less per month</li> <li>• Income- based Jobseekers Allowance</li> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Any Income related element of Employment and Support Allowance</li> <li>• Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> </ul>	Apply online at <a href="https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)</a>
Clothing Grant	£150 per secondary school pupil per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Tax Credit where household income is £19,995 or less</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit where the household income is £9,552 or less</li> <li>• Universal Credit where earned income is £796 or less per month</li> <li>• Income- based Jobseekers Allowance</li> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Any Income related element of Employment and Support Allowance</li> <li>• Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> </ul>	Apply online at <a href="https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)</a>
Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)	A weekly payment of £30, paid every 2 weeks in arrears.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Available to young people aged between 16 and 19 years old who are attending full time school education.</b></li> <li>• <b>Assessed on gross taxable household income.</b></li> <li>• <b>Income up to £24,421 (for households with 1 dependent child)</b></li> <li>• <b>Income up to £26,884 (for households with 2 or more dependent children).</b></li> <li>• <b>Applications are accepted until 30th February. After this point no back-dated payments will be made.</b></li> </ul>	Apply online at <a href="https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Education maintenance allowance - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)</a>
Free Bus Travel	Young people can access free bus travel with their Young Scot Card or National Entitlement Card (NEC).	<p><b>For 5-15 year olds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parents, guardians or carers of children between 5 and 15 need to apply on their child's behalf.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>For 16-21 year olds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If you have an active NEC or Young Scot NEC already, you can download free bus travel onto your card using the Transport Scot Pass Collect app. This means you won't need to apply for a new card to access your free bus travel.</b></li> <li>• <b>Make sure you have your card with you when you board the bus. Tell the bus driver where you are going then tap your card on the electronic ticket machine.</b></li> <li>• <b>You can tell if you have an active card. They have a long number next to the ITSO logo.</b></li> </ul>	Apply online at <a href="https://freebus.scot/">https://freebus.scot/</a> or <a href="https://getyournec.scot/nec/pages/content/young-persons-free-bus-travel">https://getyournec.scot/nec/pages/content/young-persons-free-bus-travel</a>

Free Laptop / Device	Laptops and devices donated through Tech4families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications must be made by a parent or carer over the age of 18 and are to apply for a laptop for a child between the ages of 4 and 16 on the date that the application is made.</li> <li>• Only one application per child is permitted. Where a child spends time between two or more households, those households must co-ordinate to ensure that only one application is made.</li> <li>• Applicants and their child must be permanent residents in the UK, and have been in the UK for at least the last six months.</li> <li>• Applications will then be verified by one of the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guidance Teacher at the school</li> <li>- CAB adviser who knows the child and advises the family</li> <li>- Librarian who knows the child and advises the family</li> <li>- Local elected Councillor who knows the child</li> <li>- Job Centre representative who knows the child</li> <li>- Staff representative of a charity registered with the Charity Commission working in the local community who knows the child and supports the family (including food banks and other community groups)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Apply online at <a href="#">Application Form - Tech4Families - Digital Poverty Alliance</a>
Best Start Grant / Scottish Child Payment	The Scottish Government make payments to eligible families from pregnancy to when the child is of age to start school.	For eligibility please see <a href="#">Who should apply - mygov.scot</a> for the Best Start Grant and <a href="#">Who should apply - mygov.scot</a> for Scottish Child Payment.	Apply online at <a href="https://www.mysgov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/best-start-apply">https://www.mysgov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/best-start-apply</a> and <a href="https://www.mysgov.scot/scottish-child-payment">https://www.mysgov.scot/scottish-child-payment</a>
IAAH (Information and Advice Hub) Community Team Support	<p>The enhanced team provides comprehensive financial support for families, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benefit entitlement checks</li> <li>- Debt management and budgeting advice</li> <li>- Referrals to foodbanks</li> <li>- Support for energy crises</li> <li>- Employment rights guidance</li> <li>- Access to grants</li> </ul>	Available to all families who require support and advice.	Contact the school office for more details.
Kyle Academy Clothing Bank	The guidance team have a bank of school clothes that can be accessed throughout the school year.	Available to those who are in need of school uniform.	Contact the school office for more details.

<p>Study Club / Breakfast Club</p>	<p>Open from Monday to Thursday, 8.15am to 8.45am. A quiet place to study and access to breakfast and a hot drink. Kindly funded by Kyle Academy families.</p> <p>Snacks and water are also available in the guidance base throughout the day.</p>	<p>Available to all students.</p>	<p>Contact the school office for more details.</p>
<p>School Trips</p>	<p>Kyle Academy are always looking to subsidise or reduce the cost of school trips where possible. Please contact the school if you need additional financial support to pay for any mandatory school trips.</p>	<p>Available to all students.</p>	<p>Contact the school office for more details.</p>