

Where can I get more information about the cash help I could get if I stay in school or college?

- Ask your Connexions personal adviser at school or speak to your student adviser at college
- Look at the directgov website at **www.direct.gov.uk**
- Call the welfare benefits and money advice helpline on **020 8583 5016**
- e-mail your query on **wbmau@hounslow.gov.uk**
- Check out Hounslow Connexions Service website on **www.hounslowattic.org.uk/index.php/money**

Ask for a copy of the Lsc booklet 16 to 19? financial help for young people from your Connexions adviser or by calling the Learning and Skills Council on 0845 019 4170.

Social Inclusion, Welfare Benefits  
and Money Advice Unit  
London Borough of Hounslow  
Civic Centre, Lampton Road  
Hounslow TW3 4DN  
020 8583 5016  
e-mail: [wbmau@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:wbmau@hounslow.gov.uk)

[www.hounslow.gov.uk](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk)

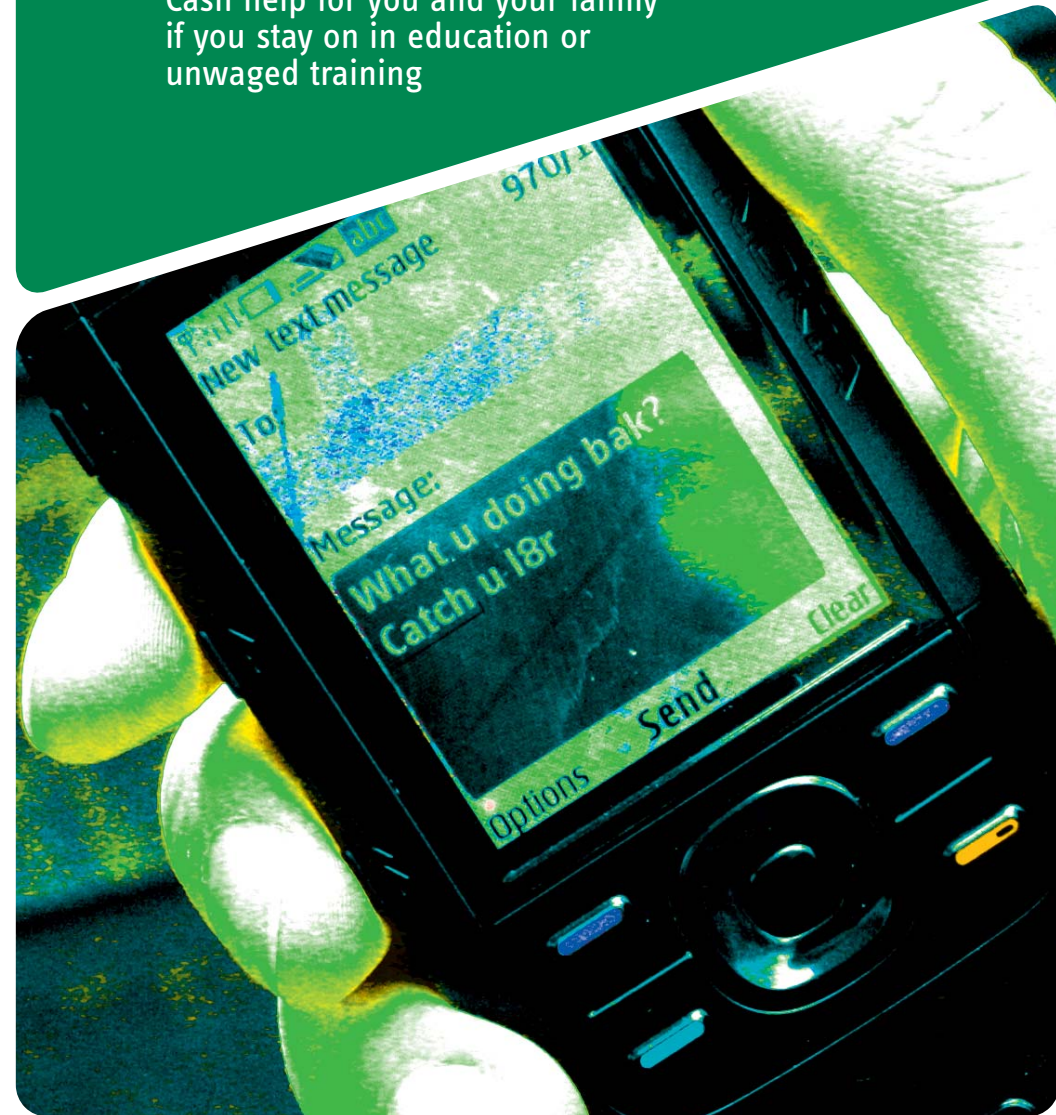
Leaflet WBMAU Number 12. March 2008



London Borough  
of Hounslow

## 16 PLUS ? HERE ARE SOME GOOD REASONS TO STAY ON IN EDUCATION

Cash help for you and your family  
if you stay on in education or  
unwaged training



What money could my family or I get if I stay on at school, college or approved training course?

## What could you get?

- Education maintenance allowance (EMA) if you are 16 to 18. This is up to £30 a week and bonuses if you do well. This is your money paid to you and doesn't affect any benefits or tax credits your family gets. (Your family income must be no more than £30,810.)
- Learner support grants may be of help if you are 16 plus and on a Learning and Skills Council learning programme in school or college. These are for students in hardship.
- Benefits help from age 16 if you are disabled or have an illness which stops you working or you are a lone parent. If you are looking after someone who is disabled and you continue to study part time you can also get help from benefits. You can get this help even if you live at home.
- Benefits help if you are 16 to 19 and you can't live with your parents or someone who acts in place of your parents like a relative or other adult. This help can be given while you remain studying at least 12 hours a week. This is not an easy option and benefit help is quite low. These are special rules as most 16 to 17 year olds can't claim benefits while they stay in full time study or unwaged training.
- Benefits help at 18. You may be able to claim Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) but not usually if you are studying full time. If you get JSA you are expected to be looking for work and may have to give up your study.
- Care leavers can't get benefit help normally if they are 16 or 17 as the local council is still meant to support them. The rules are different if you are a lone parent or too sick or disabled to work. Care leavers can get the EMA and disability benefit if you meet the rules.
- Don't forget to apply for your 16+ Oyster photocard for free travel on buses and half price on the tube. Get the form from the Post Office.



## What could your parents or the person who looks after you get for you if you stay on in education or training?

- Tax credits and child benefit can still be paid for you if you study at least 12 hours a week on a range of courses like GCSE, GNVQ or A levels.
- Housing benefit and council tax benefit will still count you as a dependent while you study at least 12 hours a week on a range of courses up to A level so their benefits won't be reduced if you stay on to study.
- You count as a dependent young person so your parents can still claim benefits and tax credits for you until you finish your course or you have your 20th birthday - whatever comes first.

We have written a leaflet for parents. Ask if they have a copy.