**ALLOWANCES TO HELP WITH THE COSTS OF SCHOOLING**

**SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SAS)**

The Western Australian Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families with secondary schooling costs. The allowance consists of two components:

Clothing Allowance **$115** paid directly to the parent or the school Educational Program Allowance **$235** paid directly to the school

Application is made by the parent or guardian for student/s enrolled in Years 7 – 12. The allowance is paid up to and including the year the student turns 18 years of age.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Parent or Guardian must hold one of the following cards:

• Centrelink Family Health Care Card

• Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card

• Veterans’ Affairs Pensioner Concession Card (blue card issued annually)

Parent/guardian must be the holder of a card that is valid sometime during first term. The only exception to this is when a student holds their own health care card and has been declared independent by Centrelink (e.g. living away from home). In this instance, a letter of confirmation from Centrelink needs to accompany the application.

**Education Program Allowance/Secondary Assistance Scheme**

Successful applicants will have the Program Allowance of $235 paid directly to the school to reduce the contributions payable by the parent/guardian in Years 7 –10 and the course charges in Years 11 and 12.

**Clothing Allowance**

The Clothing Allowance of $115 will be paid to the parent/guardian unless you indicate on the application form that you wish it to be paid to the school. If payment to the parent/guardian is requested, the payment will be deposited into the parent/guardian’s bank account. Payments made to the school will offset a voucher for Sportspower for uniforms or alternatively any charges on the students C&C account.

**Abstudy Supplement Allowance**

This funding supplements the Centrelink Abstudy Fees Allowance payment of $79 and is available to parents holding a Centrelink Pensioner concession, or Family Health Care card or Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner concession card. Payments are made directly to the school and are applied to the student’s contributions in Years 7-10 and charges for Years 11&12.

**How to Apply**

Secondary Assistance and Abstudy Supplement forms are to be completed at the school in Term 1 of each year. Bring your bank details and eligibility cards in to the accounts office and make your application before the end of Term 1.

Note that Secondary Assistance cannot be claimed as well as Abstudy.