

St Mungo's High School

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Rector: Mr Stephen Phee



Falkirk Council
Children's Services

04.11.2021

Dear parent/carer,

Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS) – INFORMATION & SIGN UP REQUEST

We have recently partnered with LEAPS, an organisation that supports widening access to Higher Education for our new S6 cohort. LEAPS is an impartial government funded programme which aims to raise awareness of opportunities in Higher Education and increase the number of students going to College or University. [Their website can be accessed via this link.](#)

Next week, we will hold a number of House Information sessions (in line with government regulations) with students to promote LEAPS at this early stage next week and confirm eligibility criteria.

Applicants to LEAPS **must be capable of achieving 3+ Highers by the end of S6 and 1 of the following criteria:**

- Student who is ***first generation in the family*** to apply to higher education or whose parents/carers ***do not*** already have a degree. This includes students whose parents/carers may have briefly participated but did not achieve a degree.
- Student from a ***low income background*** (for instance where a student is entitled to EMA, free meals in school, or where the family is entitled to a benefit such as Universal Credit).
- Student who has ***spent time in care*** or being ***looked after*** or who is ***estranged***.
- Student who is a ***young carer*** - by this we mean a young person who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.
- Student who lives in one of Scotland's 20% ***most disadvantaged communities*** as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD20). Please check your [postcode here](#). Scroll down for postcode checker.

We can access some of this information from school data, but other details are personal, so we are asking parents/carers to check if your child is eligible e.g. 1st generation in the family to apply to higher education is one criteria that students don't always know.

Any St Mungo's student who match any of the LEAPS eligibility criteria listed under Group 2 schools are considered LEAPS eligible. If eligible, a wide range of support can be offered including:

- *Advice and information on choosing and applying for Higher Education courses*
- *Workshops on choosing your subjects and managing finances as a University student*
- *Personal statement workshops*
- *One-to-one pre-application advice*
- *Hearing from current students who will share their own experiences of applying to, and life at, university.*
- *Specific support for areas including folio support, theatre, acting etc.*

Yours faithfully

Clare Marshall

Depute Head Teacher

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