



COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

Town Hall, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW

☎ 0300 1234 105

✉ enquiries@scilly.gov.uk

Richard Huish College
South Road
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3DZ

23rd May 2025.

Dear Emma Fielding – Principal,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am the Director for Children's Services on the beautiful Isles of Scilly, where I have had the pleasure of holding this position for the last 12 months. In that time the Council, has worked hard to develop valued partnerships with multi-agency colleagues and we have grown great relationships across the education sector.

I am writing to you, on behalf of the Council, in the hope of opening a conversation about, how as a further education establishment you may be able to help our young people.

Our young people are amazing, and as they grow up, they have every opportunity to develop into resilient and confident young people. However, at the age of 16 years old they do meet an unusual challenge of having to leave home to access education.

There are a combination of factors at play here that make the transition to further education more challenging for our young people. Firstly, there is not a further education offer on the islands and secondly the distance from the mainland means a daily commute to and from the nearest further education provider is not possible.

Therefore, whilst choosing their further education studies, our young people and their families are also faced with making a range of decisions about where to stay whilst studying. The choice ranges from boarding school, living with extended family where possible, or indeed to live within a host family in order to access local community education.

As we continue to do our best to support our young people and their families, I have agreed to approach you in the hope that you will consider the unusual situation of the young people and families of Scilly and whether you would work with us around the cost of having a student from Scilly fulfil their further education with you.

I know that you will understand that not every family can afford the full boarding fees of boarding school and have produced a post-16 information booklet to help them to make the best decision that they can. As a Council we also continue to lobby government for more financial support given the context for Scilly.

At present families benefit from a grant from government which is then passported to them. Since the academic year 2024/25, the council has provided additional funding towards this, and for academic year 2025/26 the total grant amount for eligible young persons is £9,635.00. We know that families find this a great help however, you will know that the grant is not sufficient to cover the total cost of all boarding options.

As a Council we are keen to do all we can for our children and young people and in particular we are focused on keeping our children as close to home as is possible whilst enabling them to expand their life experience at such an exciting developmental stage of their life. Therefore at the Full Council meeting on [24 March 2025](#), a decision was made by the locally elected members that the Director of Children's Services, the Chief Executive, and the Chairman of Council write to the nearest state boarding schools, copying in the Department for Education, asking for these circumstances to be taken into account and requesting a special rate for Isles of Scilly children.

This letter seeks to implement that decision. It would be good to arrange time to talk and see what we can achieve together.

I look forward to your reply.

With the kindest of regards,



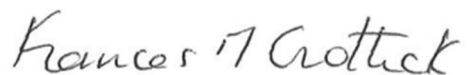
Anne Coyle
Director of Children's Services
Council of the Isles of Scilly



Russell Ashman
Chief Executive Officer
Council of the Isles of Scilly



Robert Francis
Chairman of Council
Council of the Isles of Scilly



Fran Grottick
Lead Member for Children
Council of the Isles of Scilly.