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EMA PUTS LINCOLNSHIRE STUDENT IN THE PICTURE FOR DREAM CAREER

A young woman from Lincolnshire is well on the way to a career in photography, with help from the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Charlotte Brown is just one of many students from Lincoln College who have accessed EMA since it was introduced in 2004. EMA provides up to £30 a week to help people between 16 and 19 from low income households to continue in learning.

Recent evidence shows EMA has succeeded in increasing the number of young people staying on in learning at 16 and the number of learners achieving qualifications at 19.

Charlotte Brown, 17, first heard about EMA when she was leaving school before applying for college. Upon hearing about it her parents researched EMA and signed Charlotte up. Studying Biology, English and Photography at Lincoln College, there are always many course materials that Charlotte needs to buy. EMA has helped support her.

Charlotte said:

“The first thing I bought with my EMA was food and drink, afterwards I started saving it as I realised I would need it for my courses.

“Photography is an expensive subject and there are always lots of materials that you need to buy, like film and photographic paper. EMA has helped me with this.

“When I first started the college I wasn’t sure about what to study so I took a wide range of subjects. I have really enjoyed doing photography and hope that I can study it at university.

“There are a lot of people in my college that receive EMA, even some of my close friends. They too think EMA is a good idea and have found it helpful.”

John Allen, Principal of Lincoln College said:

“EMA is a tremendously important initiative that can help keep young people in learning and provide them with the incentive to finish their studies. Those who receive it put the extra support towards books and course materials, which in some cases they couldn’t afford.

“The financial support that students get, offers them the opportunity to reach their potential and build towards their future careers.”

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is committed to providing practical help for young people. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) offers up to £30 a week towards their continuing education for those eligible aged 16 to 18, dependent on the household income. EMA is paid directly into the student’s bank account and

additional bonuses are also available for students who do well and meet targets set by their teacher, tutor or provider.

To find out more about EMA please visit www.direct.gov.uk/ema or call the EMA helpline on 0800 121 8989.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

All media enquires please contact:

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Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

What are the key features of EMA?

- Weekly payment bands of £30, £20 and £10 per week, depending on household income.
- Intermittent bonus payments depending on the programme of learning.
- Available for both academic and vocational study, up to level 3, which can include courses such as basic skills GCSE retakes, GNVQs, NVQs, as well as AS and A2s.
- No other household benefits are affected.
- Young people can still have a part-time job.

Who is eligible for EMA?

- Young people are eligible to receive or to continue receiving EMA in the EMA year 2009/10 providing:
 - They will already be 16, 17 or 18 on the 1st September 2009
 - They are participating in full-time further education (as defined in EMA guidance) up to and including Level 3, or LSC funded e2e or a Programme led Apprenticeship
- The amount of EMA that a young person is eligible to receive in 2009/10 is dependent on their household income which must be £30,810 or less in the previous tax year, 2008-2009. The young person will then receive £10, £20 or £30 – a breakdown is as follows:

Up to £20,817	£30
More than £20,817 but less than or equal to £25,521	£20
More than £25,521 but less than or equal to £30,810	£10

For all public enquiries regarding EMA, please contact 0800 121 8989 (some mobile operators may charge for calls made to this number) or visit www.direct.gov.uk/ema

**Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News & PR. T:
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