

# Preparing for the future: Financial support for parents of teens

## **Resource pack**



## Introduction

For families with teenagers, the end of high school opens up exciting new opportunities! However, we know the admin that goes alongside this can be challenging for both parents and their children.

This information pack can be used in your communications with parents, to make it easier for them to extend their Child Benefit payments and support their children with preparing for the future. Please feel free to share this information on any of your channels, including:

- Email/newsletter copy
- SMS messaging
- Social media messaging

### **Email/newsletter**

#### Extend your Child Benefit claim for your teen today.

It's time for parents across the UK to <u>extend their Child Benefit claim</u> if their 16-19-year-old is staying in full-time non-advanced education or approved training.

HMRC sent 1.4 million letters between 24 May and 17 July to parents, explaining how to extend their claim. If you haven't received a letter yet, there's no need to worry. You can still extend your Child Benefit via the <u>HMRC app</u> or <u>online</u> where eligible.

We know how important Child Benefit can be to families, so let HMRC know by 31 August if your teen intends to stay in approved education or training.

Extending your Child Benefit ensures you won't miss out on any payments from 31 August. However, if your child changes their mind about further education or training, you can simply let HMRC know online or in the app and we'll update our records and adjust any payments as needed.

For parents who can't extend their Child Benefit online, you can still do so by post or by phone.

#### Forgotten cash? Helping your teens to claim their Child Trust Fund

If your child was born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011, they may have a surprise windfall waiting for them!

<u>Child Trust Funds</u> (CTF) are long-term, tax-free saving accounts – worth an average of £2,000. If you didn't open the account, HMRC may have opened one on behalf of your child.

If your teen is 16 or 17, they can take over responsibility for their CTF account. Once your child is 18, they can access and withdraw the money from their account.

If you don't have details of their CTF account to share with them, they can ask HMRC who their CTF provider is by completing an <u>online form</u>. They'll need your National Insurance number for this, which they can easily find in the HMRC app.

## SMS messaging

#### SMS copy

Is your teen staying in education or training next year? Update your Child Benefit claim to keep receiving payments: <a href="https://www.ly/VPv550SwWCS">https://www.ly/VPv550SwWCS</a>

Help your child check if they have a Child Trust Fund account and make the claim online. Worth an avg. of £2000: <u>https://ow.ly/PWiA50SwWI3</u>

## Social media messaging

We've attached some social media assets to the email we sent to you, in case you want to use these on your own channels. Here is some of our social media messaging:

#### Social media copy

Starting to get ready for the new school year? 🗧

If your teen is staying in education or training, you'll need to extend your Child Benefit claim.

Don't miss out on up to £1,331 next year - let us know online or on the HMRC app today.

Go to 👉 https://ow.ly/VPv550SwWCS

Parents – was your child born between 1 Sep 2002 and 2 Jan 2011?

They can check if they have forgotten savings in a Child Trust Fund – worth around £2,000 on average.

Claiming Child Trust Fund is easy.

Find out how they can do it themselves and keep every penny: <a href="https://ow.ly/PWiA50SwWl3">https://ow.ly/PWiA50SwWl3</a>