

4

Make it happen

READING

- ★ 1 Complete the text with these words or phrases.

conserve honour intense optimistic packed
scholarship sprint stands stick to stretcher



Student news: Sports

Victory for Mark!

Sixth-form student Mark Thompson won the 200m
¹..... in front of a ²..... stadium during
 the ³..... National Championships final this
 weekend. Despite leaving the semi-finals on a ⁴.....
 after passing out at the end of the race because he didn't
⁵..... enough energy in the early stages of the race,
 Mark chose to ⁶..... his plans to race in the final
 and was ⁷..... before the race. Several of Mark's
 classmates were in the ⁸..... watching him, and he
 has donated his trophy to the school. He said he felt competing
 for the school was a great ⁹..... Mark's win
 secured him a ¹⁰..... to a famous university in the
 USA. Well done, Mark!

- ★ 2 Read the article from a student news site. What is the main purpose of the text?
- A to explain why young people don't want to go to university
 - B to offer young people alternative ways to pay for university costs
 - C to show young people that university isn't the only option

- ★ 3 Read the questions in Ex 4. Find the key words. Use the example in question 1 to help you.

- ★ 4 e Read the article again. For questions 1–6, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 What point is the writer making in the first paragraph?
- A Potential students often have financial concerns.
 - B Few young people know what they really want to do.
 - C It's important to learn to cook before going to university
 - D Many young people find it difficult to leave home.

- 2 In paragraph 2 what does the writer say about scholarships?

- A They take pressure off students.
- B They allow students to learn about jobs in business.
- C They are advertised widely.
- D They generally offer fixed sums of money.

- 3 In paragraph 3, the writer implies that he was

- A worried that he had completed his application incorrectly.
- B confused by a childhood experience.
- C bored by the amount of detail in the scholarship application.
- D annoyed that he hadn't understood the application conditions.

- 4 What does 'it' refer to in line 41?

- A applying for a scholarship
- B getting involved with school activities
- C helping a local family in trouble
- D being a good leader

- 5 Why does the writer feel positive about non-traditional scholarships?

- A They only give out small amounts of money.
- B They allow anyone to apply.
- C They look for students who have special skills.
- D They are for students who are more interested in animals than sports.

- 6 Why does the writer mention being a vegetarian?

- A to show different types of hobby.
- B to show that all scholarship candidates must be talented
- C to explain why eating habits are important
- D to give an example of unusual scholarships

Extend

- ★ 5 Find words in the article that mean the following.

- 1 give money or help towards something (para 2)
- 2 big companies or groups of companies (para 2)
- 3 an organisation that helps or gives money to people in need (para 2)
- 4 lots of something (para 2)
- 5 earn something through good behaviour (para 4)
- 6 very difficult (para 5)
- 7 given as a prize (para 6)

Student News: Careers

There's no doubt about it: higher education is expensive. Some students hesitate before applying for university because the thought of paying the fees and general living costs for four years is difficult to comprehend. A quick survey of my friends showed that almost all of us had a few sleepless nights before we went to university. Sure, we couldn't wait to move out and were anxious to have new experiences but we knew that at the end of it we would have a huge amount of debt. As eighteen-year-olds who struggled to look after themselves, that was a pretty big deal!

For many students, whose families are unable to contribute financially, the high cost of university might even prevent them from applying. That's why scholarships are so important; they provide important support that enables students to focus on studying instead of having to find ways of making money. Many companies and organisations offer scholarships. Sometimes these are large corporations who want to invest in future workers, and sometimes they are charity organisations that represent people who believe in the value of education. There are tons of scholarships available, and they all offer money to be used for different purposes: you might be offered a small amount of money to help you to buy books and study materials, or your university costs might be completely paid for.

Unfortunately, this doesn't make it easy to get a scholarship because most of them have specific requirements about who can apply. You may be automatically rejected for some scholarships simply because of where you live, what type of school you study at or even your parents' jobs. Reading the small print before you apply is really important. I remember a very frustrating experience: I got all the way to the end of an application when I realised that I didn't qualify because my family had lived abroad for a few years when I was younger.

Even if you do have the basic requirements, you'll still need to prove that you deserve help. Think about your school life up until now. Obviously, having good grades is essential, but taking an active role in your school and community also looks good on your scholarship application. One of my friends managed to get a scholarship because he had been involved in organising a charity event to raise money to help a family on his street whose house had burned down. He had only done it to be kind so he was surprised when the scholarship committee told him that had convinced them to give him the money. Sometimes things that don't seem like a big deal actually mean a lot because they show that you can stick to something and can be a good leader.

Competition for scholarships is tough and many programmes receive hundreds and sometimes even thousands of applications. It's easy to feel that you haven't got a chance of being successful, especially if you aren't very academic or athletic. But don't worry, because the good news is that there are also lots of less traditional scholarships available. The people behind these scholarships don't care about how well you can write an essay or your average score in science; they are more interested in your unusual talents. For example, in the US, teenagers with a talent for duck calling (the sound made by people hunting ducks) could win \$10,000 in the annual scholarship duck calling contest. Or if you're a great marble player or love knitting, you might be able to play (or knit!) your way to a free degree.

Some of these scholarships don't even look for talented people – just being left-handed or having a specific surname is enough. Non-traditional scholarships are also awarded to people who are passionate about things like being a vegetarian, making greeting cards or designing different things out of paper.

There really is a scholarship out there for everyone. I bet that you could find one that's suitable for you, even if it is a bit wacky!

line 41

- ★ 6 Complete the text with the correct form of the words from Ex 5.

EDUCATION MATTERS

Do you want to ¹..... to helping young people achieve their higher education goals? Our organisation has five scholarships to ²..... to young people who ³..... the opportunity to go university but live in ⁴..... financial circumstances. We receive ⁵..... of applications every year and we need people to help out on our committee. Get in touch if you are interested.

(Note: we are a ⁶..... that relies on donations, not a ⁷..... with private financing, so this is a volunteer position).

