

# Education

Being diagnosed with cancer can affect all areas of your life, including your education.

During your treatment, you may need to take some time off school, college or university. You may worry about how your studies will be affected, but support is available.

It may be possible to return to your studies between treatments. Or you may continue with your education when your treatment finishes. In some cases, you may decide not to carry on studying, or change your mind about what you want to do after treatment.

If you return to school, college or university, there are ways to make it easier to cope.

## Tips to manage your education when you have cancer

- Speak to your doctor about how your cancer, treatment and any side effects may affect your education. This can help you decide whether to keep studying during treatment.
- It is important that you, or a family member, contacts your school, college or university. You can explain the effect that the cancer and treatment may have on you.
- Talk to your school, college or university about what will happen if you take time off. There may be other options. This could include studying in hospital, having home tuition or online learning. If you are aged 16 or under, your local authority can give more information.
- Know your rights. If you are well enough to stay in education, your school, college or university must make reasonable adjustments to support you. This could mean being more flexible about attendance or making other arrangements for work and deadlines if you have fatigue (tiredness). Special arrangements can also be made for exams.
- As a student living with cancer, you may be entitled to government benefits. To find out more, call Macmillan's welfare rights team on **0808 808 00 00**.
- Tell your student loan company if you decide to postpone, or stop, full-time study. You can be absent from your course for 60 days without it affecting your financial support. The disability service at your college or university can advise you about student loans and tuition fees. They can also help you get funding for when you return.
- If you need to take time off, it can help to stay in contact with your teachers, tutors and friends. Try to keep up with some work if you feel well enough, but do not put too much pressure on yourself.
- To share how you are feeling or talk to others going through a similar experience, you can join a support group. Or, join to Macmillan's Online Community at **macmillan.org.uk/community**
- When you are ready to return to studying, explain your needs clearly to your teachers or tutors. They must make reasonable adjustments to support you.
- After treatment, you may be anxious about being with people your own age again. Before you go back, try to meet up with your friends in a place where you feel comfortable. This will help give you confidence when you return.
- If you are worried about being bullied because of the cancer, treatment or your appearance, tell your school, college or university. They can help your classmates understand more about your situation.

**Local resources:**

Resource	Contact details

**National resources:**

Resource	Contact details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLIC Sargent</li> <li>• Student Loans Company</li> <li>• Teenage Cancer Trust</li> <li>• Teens Unite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.clicsargent.org.uk">www.clicsargent.org.uk</a> Tel 0300 330 0803 (Mon to Fri, 8am to 6pm)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.slc.co.uk">www.slc.co.uk</a> Tel 0141 306 2000</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.teenagecancertrust.org">www.teenagecancertrust.org</a> Tel 020 7612 0370 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5.30pm)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.teensunite.org">www.teensunite.org</a> Tel 0199 2440 091 Email <a href="mailto:info@teensunite.org">info@teensunite.org</a></li> </ul>

**Further information**

[macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups](http://macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups)

[macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/diagnosis/teenagers-and-young-adults](http://macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/diagnosis/teenagers-and-young-adults)

We have more booklets and leaflets about cancer that you may find helpful. These are available to order free on [be.macmillan.org.uk](http://be.macmillan.org.uk)

**More information and support**

If you have more questions or would like to talk to someone, call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00**, 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm, or visit [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk)

Deaf or hard of hearing? Call using NGT (Text Relay) on **18001 0808 808 00 00**, or use the NGT Lite app. Speak another language? Telephone interpreters are available. Please tell us in English the language you would like to use.

We produce information in a range of formats and languages. To order these, visit [macmillan.org.uk/otherformats](http://macmillan.org.uk/otherformats) or call our support line.