



Parents and guardians of teenagers are being urged to take action to ensure they continue receiving Child Benefit payments as their children move through higher levels of education. With thousands of 16-year-olds finishing their GCSEs this summer, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding families that they must actively update their claim if their child stays in full-time education or approved training.

Why You Need to Act

Child Benefit usually stops on August 31 after a child turns 16, unless parents inform HMRC that their child will remain in eligible education or training. This includes staying on at school or college for A-levels, T-Levels, or vocational courses like NVQs and BTECs. Without this confirmation, families risk losing up to £1,300 a year per child, a significant amount, especially amid rising living costs.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive, said, *"Child Benefit is a vital financial support for many families. If your teenager is continuing their education or training, you need to let us know so payments don't stop automatically."*

How to Extend Your Claim

Parents can update their claim quickly and easily using their online Personal Tax Account on the GOV.UK website. HMRC encourages families to act as soon as possible to avoid interruptions in payment.

To continue receiving Child Benefit, the child must be:

- Aged 16–19
- In full-time non-advanced education (e.g., A-levels, Scottish Highers)
- Or in approved training that is unpaid and not part of a job

It's important to note that higher education (like university) or paid apprenticeships are not eligible.

Consequences of Not Updating

Failing to update the claim in time can result in missed payments and the need to reapply, which could delay support. Additionally, for higher-income families, claiming Child Benefit remains important even if it is repaid through the High Income Child Benefit Charge, as it helps protect entitlement to National Insurance credits and contributes to the child's future State Pension record.

A Simple Process with Big Benefits

Renewing a Child Benefit claim online typically takes only a few minutes and could save families considerable time and financial disruption. HMRC has emphasised that acting early is key, especially with the high volume of school leavers expected to trigger a spike in claims.

For more information or to update your details, visit GOV.UK and search for "Child Benefit when your child turns 16."

We can help

If you need assistance with any issues raised in this Broadcast, please call us on **01753 888 211** or email **info@nhllp.com**. We are here to help.