

# Students deserve better support

16th September 2016



## **Students deserve better support.**

We support free tuition in Scotland, but the SNP has slashed bursaries and grants – and that means students increasingly have to turn to loans and track up more debt.

### **Lower bursaries**

The average student bursary is £400 less than when the SNP came to power. In 2006-07 the average was £1,760 compared with £1,330 in 2015-16.

### **Higher loans**

In turn the average loan has increased by nearly £3,000.

In 2006-07 the average loan paid per student for living costs in that academic year was £2,310, but by 2015-16 that figure has risen to £5,290.

## **Students deserve better support**

Labour committed to reversing the SNP's cuts at the last Scottish election. We would also lift the threshold that people start paying back their student loan to £21,000 – helping graduates on low incomes.

**The SNP said that education was the top priority – but these cuts are saddling students with unfair levels of debt.**