

07 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Free School Meals – Easter Holidays and Summer term

Easter holidays

Under normal circumstances, schools receive funding to provide Free School Meals (FSM) to eligible students during term-time only, with meals during holidays being the responsibility of parents. However, these are unprecedented times and the financial pressures on many families are significant. As a school we had decided to continue to fund FSM over the Easter holidays but the Government has now agreed to do this nationally. Whilst the DfE's system is still being set up, we will provide this 2nd supermarket voucher using our existing system with the company *Wonde*. In the same process as before, you will receive a text message asking you to choose a supermarket from: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda or Morrisons. Once you have made your choice, you will receive a voucher worth £29.90, again by text message (please be aware this can take up to 48 hours to come through). This new amount is in line with the soon-to-be Government introduction of £15 per week and in the confines of *Wonde's* existing system which issues vouchers in multiples of £2.30, hence the slightly strange amount. Please be aware that if your child is attending school, we will continue to provide a Free School Meal within school and you will not receive supermarket vouchers for the days they attend.

Summer term

After the Easter holidays, our aim is to move to the Government's new national supermarket voucher scheme for as long as school remains closed. The main differences are that you will be able to choose from 6 supermarkets: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose (the Government hopes at some point to be able to add others as well). The value of the FSM supermarket voucher will be £30 and this will come via an email to you via the email address we hold for you on the school system. Many thanks to all those parents who've confirmed their email address in the last week or so when we've phoned you. If you haven't had a call or had a missed call from a blocked number (which was probably us), please email ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk to confirm the email we should send the voucher to. Please bear in mind, this email address should be for the parent/carers who is 1st priority for a particular student. In the unlikely event that there are teething problems with the Government's new system, we may stay with *Wonde* until they are resolved so that there is no gap in support, but we will keep you informed if that happens.

Just a reminder: this FSM allowance is to be used for the sole purpose of parents/carers providing lunch for their child during this period of school closure. If you have any difficulties whatsoever in relation to your child's Free School Meals, please contact me on ndixon@lymmhigh.org.uk

We will be sending several messages to parents over the coming weeks, and some of these may relate to FSM arrangements. Please ensure you can access the messages facility via our School Gateway app – any problems, please email ithelpdesk@lymmhigh.org.uk If you do not have the School Gateway app or are having any problems with it, please contact our IT manager on the email address above for support.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dixon', written in a cursive style.

Natalie Dixon

Assistant Headteacher