

October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium eligibility

We strive to ensure that we provide your child with the best education and support we can, and there is help available for families in certain circumstances. Not unsurprisingly given the devastating impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the economy in many sectors, we have seen a significant increase in the number of families at school becoming eligible for Universal Credit and consequently for Free School Meals (FSM), who have never previously been eligible. If your child and your family have been impacted in this way, we urge you to get in touch with us.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for Free School Meals for their child in Years 7 - 13. FSM eligibility provides your child with £2.30 of additional credit on their Cashless Catering account to spend on a meal at lunchtime each day (totalling £11.50 per week). Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400;
- Income Support;
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190;
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit);
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit; or
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

The FSM credit goes onto students' account electronically each day so there is no requirement to inform your child of FSM eligibility if that's what you'd prefer – some parents decide to tell their child; others choose not to.

Our Free School Meals are administered by Warrington Borough Council. If you believe your child might be eligible, please complete this **Free School Meal form** and email to the FSM team at Warrington Borough Council (schooladmissions@warrington.gov.uk) along with evidence of your benefits. If you have any questions or to check eligibility over the phone, please call the FSM team at Warrington Borough Council on 01925 446226, with all your information to hand.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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Registering for Free School Meals also raises an extra £935 for school, to fund valuable support for your child such as extra tuition, access to Chromebooks, peripatetic music lessons, additional teaching staff and teaching assistants, trips and uniform support. This additional funding is called Pupil Premium and is available to schools from central government for every child who comes under one of the following 7 Pupil Premium categories:

- Child is currently eligible for Free School Meals (or has been eligible in the last 6 years);
- Child is currently in care;
- Child has previously been adopted from care;
- Child is under a Special Guardianship Order (or SGO);
- Child is under a Residency Order (RO);
- Child is under a Child Arrangement Order (CAO); or
- Child has a parent in the Armed Forces (or parent has been in the last 6 years);

If your child falls into one of these categories and we don't already know about it, please get in touch by contacting your child's Head of Year as soon as possible. They will be able to explain what kind of additional support comes with being eligible for Pupil Premium and it will be a valuable opportunity to discuss any additional needs your child may have.

I hope this information is useful and please let me urge you again to get in touch with your child's Head of Year if you think your child may be eligible for either Free School Meals or Pupil Premium.

Yours faithfully,

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

Ms N Dixon

Assistant Headteacher