



4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Pupil Premium and free school meals**

We know that at the moment, with the cost-of-living crisis and rising energy bills, finances are stretched across our community. We wanted to send a reminder to parents that, if you meet the criteria given below, you can register your child for free school meals, and this also means that the school receives extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'.

**What is 'Pupil Premium' funding?**

Pupil premium funding is given to schools by the government to help students reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation.

It's provided for students who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

**How is pupil premium funding used?**

Pupil Premium funding is used for three main purposes:

1. To improve the quality of teaching and learning, through for example, CPD of teachers.
2. Provide targeted academic support, such as structured interventions and small group tutoring.
3. Support wider strategies, including improving attendance, behaviour and well-being.

In order to support parents and students directly, new for this academic, we have allocated those that are registered as Pupil Premium with a virtual allowance of £75; £25 of which can be used to support the cost of uniform, and up to £50 can be used to purchase educational resources such as revision guides, equipment and other essential items for learning from a list of items that we provide.

**Is my child eligible for Free School Meals?**

Families who receive the following are eligible for Free School Meals (FSMs):

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

### **Does my child have to eat the free school meals?**

No. Students who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them, you can still opt to send your child with packed lunches. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways and it is something that benefits our school community.

### **How do I register?**

You only need to register once. To check your eligibility and apply online please visit the following website: [Freeschoolmeals@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Freeschoolmeals@leics.gov.uk) or contact 0116 305 5417. Please ensure you have your national insurance number to hand.

### **Breakfast Club**

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that Breakfast Club is open in the Bletchley dining hall, from 08:15am every morning and free toast is available for all students. It is important that students eat breakfast and we commit to this as we know how much value it holds - we hope this also helps to support with morning routines.

If you think your child is eligible, we would encourage you to register. This will ensure the school receives additional funding to support your child's education and will be of a wider benefit to our school community. Equally, you will be able to take advantage of the Pupil Premium virtual allowance.

Should you require further information, please contact our Pupil Premium Champion, Mrs Pratley [Dora.Pratley@castlerock.org.uk](mailto:Dora.Pratley@castlerock.org.uk)

Kindest regards,

Mrs D Clayfield  
**Assistant Headteacher**