

Our Ref: SKN/lha

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Free School Meal (FSM) Entitlement

Since September 2014, the Government has set aside funds for free school meals for every eligible child in school. Research indicates that the provision of a healthy school meal every day can lead to an improvement in your child's health, behaviour, motivation and ability to learn and achieve.

In addition to these benefits, the meals are worth £437 per year per child. As these meals are being offered free to all eligible school children, that's a saving that you are entitled to.

If your child is eligible for FSM but you don't want them to have the meals, that is fine, but we would ask you to continue to apply anyway. This is so that the school still receives the Pupil Premium fund which we use to provide free revision guides, discount on school trips and music lessons, and additional support for your child.

Do you Qualify?

You are entitled to apply to register for FSM for your child(ren) if you are receiving one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, and your monthly average income is no more than £616.67)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, without any Working Tax Credit, and an annual household income that is not more than £16,190
- Working Tax run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you do register for this service, the Academy will not share this information with anyone else. This will not affect any other benefits that you claim.

How to Register for FSM

Registering is quick and easy – if you think you qualify, search on the internet for 'South Gloucestershire free school meals' or alternatively 'Bristol free school meals' depending on your home address. Follow instructions on their website to apply. Please contact the school if you have difficulty applying.

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Aspens Services Ltd is the company that provides our school meals. They have been operating since 2008 and their philosophy is simple - to provide quality, freshly cooked food, attractively presented and to a high standard. Their menus are prepared by an in-house dietician and are both delicious and nutritionally balanced. Special dietary needs can be catered for if advised in advance.

If you are not currently taking advantage of the free school meals, why not give them a try? If you are already benefitting from free school meals, I hope that your child is enjoying them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S T Kneller', written in a cursive style.

Mr S T Kneller
Academy Principal