

6th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is a reminder that some students are entitled to free school meals. If you think your child might be eligible please fill in the form or contact us at school for further guidance. There is a link to the form at the bottom of this letter.

Free School Meals:

Regular healthy meals help students to concentrate and make good progress. The School Canteen offers a wide selection of healthy food which caters for a range of tastes. Children are eligible to receive free school meals (FSM) if their parents are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

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

This entitlement applies to all pupils attending the school, regardless of where they live.

At the Weald we allocate a daily allowance (currently £2.60) to all pupils eligible for free school meals. This is the cost of a nutritious and excellent value "meal deal" (freshly cooked hot meal and pudding). As an alternative to a hot meal, we also have a wide range of salads, hot snacks, and healthy desserts which can be purchased at either break or lunchtime up to the total daily allowance of £2.60.

Students receiving Free School Meals have the amount credited straight away to their parent pay account, they are able to move through the canteen and pay with their finger exactly the same way as any other student, and they are not separately identified in any way.

Please note that any unspent daily allowance does not carry forward to the next day. We know that you will encourage your child to make healthy choices with their allowance and as for all pupils we will monitor choices and have appropriate conversations with them from time to time.

There is a form to fill in to apply for Free School Meals. This can be done directly online or on paper and sent to West Sussex. We can help you by checking the form and sending it for you. If you would like assistance please contact the school or call in and ask at the front office. In addition, the government provide additional funding to schools based on the number of students who are in receipt of Free School Meals.

Consequently for every child that is registered as eligible for Free School Meals, we as a school receive proportionally more funding and are able to provide support and challenge for a wider range of students. Currently, some of this funding goes towards helping with the cost of curriculum trips and revision guides for students.

If you are eligible, please make sure you complete the paperwork and register. Use the link below to access the form online, or download an application form from our website.

http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/schools_ages_4-16/free_school_meals.aspx

Whilst this is one measure to which the government attaches resources, as a community we always work to maximise the opportunities for all our students.

Please feel free to contact the school if any of the above information is relevant to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Robinson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr N Robinson
Assistant Headteacher