



Dear Parent/Carers,

Free School Meals Eligibility

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal credit with an annual net household income of no more than £7400
- 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
- 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)

Registering for free meals could also raise over £900 for the Academies to fund valuable support such as extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

To make the application process as straight forward as possible we have launched a new online service which provides a simple and secure online form for parents or carers to complete. This automates the entire process, and applicants will be notified of their eligibility within minutes.

The advantages are:

- A faster, simpler and more convenient application process
- Fast notification of benefit entitlement
- Removes the need for paper proof of benefit
- Enables applications to be made via mobile, tablet and PC
- Removes the need for reapplication whilst eligibility continues

The link to this service is: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/unitedlearning>