



18 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: EXPANSION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

I am writing to share an important update about Free School Meals (FSM). Changes coming into effect from September 2026 may mean your family is eligible to benefit.

Previously, Free School Meal eligibility was restricted to households earning under £7,400 per year. That restriction is being removed. From September 2026, the government is extending Free School Meals to all households in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of your earned income. This means that if you are currently receiving Universal Credit; even if you are working; your child may now be entitled to a free school meal every day.

Going forward, there will be 2 categories of Free School Meals:

1. Targeted Free School Meals

- Households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.
- Households qualifying for free meals because they are in receipt of support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 will also be eligible for targeted FSM.
- Households in receipt of Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or the guarantee element of Pension Credit MAY be eligible.
- Households with families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) MAY be eligible.

2. Expanded Free School Meals (meals only)

- A new category covering children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400.

If your child qualifies for Targeted Free School Meals (FSM) the Academy will receive additional funding to support their education and wellbeing, including access to food and academic support. If your child qualifies for Expanded Free School Meals (FSM), they will be entitled to a free, nutritious meal every school day at no cost to you. There is nothing to pay and you will not need to provide dinner money.

To make sure we can confirm eligibility of Targeted or Expanded Free School Meals before September, we ask all parents/carers to complete the Google Form: [Free School Meals](#), even if you do not think you are eligible or are already receiving Free School Meals. This should take no more than two minutes and needs to be completed by the **03 July 2026**. Any information you provide will be held securely and used only to verify your child's entitlement. It will not be shared with any third party.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's office on 01375 489000.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Kitsiou
Assistant Principal

