



September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Re: Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding**

At this time of economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever that every family ensures that they get access to the correct benefits for their children, including free school meals and the Pupil Premium. At Brockington, we want to help every family to ensure that they get the right support and advice regarding key benefits for children at school. This letter details key information about applying for free school meals and the additional funding that is made available to the school via the Pupil Premium.

### **Free school meals – how it works**

The child is guaranteed a balanced and nutritious meal at lunchtime and our free school meals provision is completely discrete. Students eligible for free school meals will automatically have £3.10 added to their cashless catering card and there is no visible way for students to identify who has or has not received a free school meal.

Many families have reported the positive effects of free schools meals both in terms of reducing financial pressures and a happier family unit as money previously spent on lunch becomes available to the family budget. Further information about free school meals at Brockington may be found here: <https://www.brockington.leics.sch.uk/parents/free-school-meals/>

You may be able to claim free school meals if you get any of the following:

- ✓ 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 four 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)

In order to claim free school meals, you must complete and return an application form to the Leicestershire School Catering Service. All the relevant details, including the application form, can be found at this website:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>



If you require any support in completing the application form, or you require a paper copy of the form, please contact Mrs Kelly Campbell at Brockington College or contact the School Catering Service directly on 0116 305 5417.

### **What is Pupil Premium funding?**

Pupil Premium funding from the government is given to schools to help students reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It is provided for students who:

- ✓ are registered for free school meals
- ✓ have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past six years
- ✓ are, or have been, in care
- ✓ have parents in the armed forces.

At Brockington, we receive additional funding for every eligible student and this could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer and the opportunities for your child. For example, we have previously used this funding to provide:

- educational provision/resources, such as revision guides and exam packs
- academic interventions and workshops, such as small-group work in English and maths
- wellbeing and self-esteem building sessions
- support in purchasing uniform and PE kit
- support to take part in educational school trips.

For more information about the Pupil Premium, go to our website, which contains details of how the funding has been used: <https://www.brockington.leics.sch.uk/the-school/pupil-premium/>

I would encourage all families to take advantage of any and all support that the government is currently offering for children in school and to seek advice about applying for these benefits where you feel the need.

If you have any questions about free school meals, Pupil Premium, or any other specific concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at college.

Yours sincerely



Jon Barton  
Vice Principal

