



Letter No: 185/2020

19th June, 2020

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19: Pupil Premium Funding

We recognise that, due to COVID-19, many circumstances for our families have changed and in order to ensure that we continue to support all students I would like to bring to your attention details of Pupil Premium funding. This funding is given to schools for students who are registered for free school meals. At present, the school receives £935 per student and this extends to all students who may have been eligible for and were in receipt of free school meals at any point in the last six years.

In the academic year 2018/19 the school received a total of £116,840 in Pupil Premium funding. A sum like this can make a significant difference to the quality of provision a school is able to provide and subsequently contributes to the life chances of our students. Details of how we spend this money and the support provided to students can be found on the school website:

<https://sandringham.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Sandringham-School-PP-strategy-2019-20.pdf>

Coherent with our school motto that “everybody can be somebody”, we strongly believe that it is extremely important that we do all that we can to ensure that eligible students access their entitlement. The first thing that families can do is make sure they access their entitlement from the Government by registering their child for free school meals. A common misconception is that you must be on benefits to claim. Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- 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 they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



Applications to receive or check eligibility for free school meals is managed through Hertfordshire County Council. The online application takes 5 mins and in most cases can tell you straight away if your child can get free meals at school:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Students in receipt of free school meals receive an allowance for each day to spend in the school canteen. There is a lot of evidence about nutrition and achievement. The school receives additional funding for every student who is registered as receiving free school meals and this is used to support these students in a variety of ways in their education for example; school trips to enhance student learning, music tuition to provide an alternative learning perspective, clubs and interventions to support classroom learning and teaching, learning resources such as revision guides, textbooks and other equipment, and help with travel costs and uniform.

This is a great opportunity and I urge you to take advantage. In doing so, you support your family and provide our school with the money we need to improve your child's education and access to additional experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Allday
Assistant Headteacher