



28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Free School Meals & Pupil Premium Grant**

It remains a fundamental priority at Honywood School that all learners can access opportunities and fulfil their potential. It is therefore vital that we, together with families, seek to utilise any funding offered by the government to help support this. Both schools and families currently face difficult financial times ahead and so we would encourage you to check whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals. Should they qualify for free school meals, your child will also then be able to benefit from the Holiday Activities and Food Programme which offers holiday provision for school aged children. The school will then also receive The Pupil Premium Grant which provides us with additional funds to help support us meet the needs of disadvantaged learners.

### **Free School Meals**

We would urge any parent whose child is eligible for free school meals to apply for this, even if you choose not to utilise the service, as this then releases funding for the school that can be used to support your child. Please be assured that the free school meals system is managed at Honywood with complete discretion; we have a cashless till system and therefore students are unaware of who is receiving free school meals.

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are receiving any of the following:-

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Families with no recourse to public funds are also eligible for free school meals and the school can provide further support should you fall into this category.

Applications are processed by Essex County Council using the weblink below. If you have previously applied and your child has been awarded free school meals, you do not need to reapply unless there has been a change in your circumstances, such as a change of address or school.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

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## Pupil Premium Grant

Pupil Premium is a government funded resource paid to schools to support them with meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils. The Pupil Premium aims to ensure that these pupils benefit from the same opportunities as other students.

The Pupil Premium provides additional funding for schools and is targeted at students who:-

- Are currently entitled to free school meals or have been entitled to free school meals at any time in the previous 6 years
- Are looked after by the Local Authority
- Have been adopted from care or have left care
- Are the children of service personnel.

Further information about our Pupil Premium strategy can be found on our website, as linked below.

<https://www.honywoodschool.com/pupil-premium>

## Supporting you in this process - ICT support available

Should you require any support in navigating your way through the various electronic platforms and forms to access these provisions, the school will be running support sessions for parents/carers. Should you like to find some time to come into school in order to access this support, you can book by phone (01376 561231) or by emailing Lynn Zanatta at [lanatta@honywoodschool.com](mailto:lanatta@honywoodschool.com)

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has been successfully trialled this term and is now available to all. It will run in MH1 from 8.15am - 8.45am and give learners the chance to have breakfast if they have not been able to at home. There will be a basic selection of cereal, toast and squash on offer free of charge. The breakfast club is open to all, so if you feel that your child would benefit from this provision, please do encourage them to attend. However, please be aware that whilst we feel passionate about providing our learners with this provision at Honywood, as a new initiative, the financial longevity will be reviewed at the end of the Autumn Term, so please do encourage your children to take advantage of the provision whilst it's here.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Williams  
Associate Assistant Headteacher  
ITT, PPG and Interventions, Progress & Outcomes for Science & Industry Faculty