

## **Financial Help and Free School Meals – Years 7-11** **for the academic year September 2021 to August 2022**

Please see information overleaf, taken from the Department of Education free school meals guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, academies and free schools. This gives information on who is eligible for free school meals.

The application process is via the Northamptonshire County Council website which can be found by entering “Northamptonshire County Council free school meals” into any search engine. The Local Authority has access to information to check parental status, which is unavailable to the school. If you require help or support in checking your eligibility for free school meals, Northamptonshire County Council can be contacted via email: [freeschoolmeals@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk)

Providing that the Local Authority have informed the school of your entitlement, then for the duration of this entitlement, your children will be able to access:

- a nutritionally balanced meal to the value of £2.30 each day
- a subsidy of 50% towards entitlement and curricular-based school trips
- £50.00 per year assistance with the costs of school uniform
- 50% off peripatetic music tuition charges
- 100% off cookery charges
- assistance with the cost of revision texts for the end of KS3 and GCSE

If parents can provide the school with evidence of entitlement to means-tested state benefit, or Tax Credit Award Notice confirming household income of less than £22,464; or evidence of self-employment income of less than £22,464 (SA302 or certified accounts only) for your last accounting period, then the school is able to provide the following financial assistance:

- a subsidy of 50% towards entitlement and curricular-based school trips
- 50% off peripatetic music tuition charges
- 100% off cookery charges

The school regrets that it is not in a position to independently apply means tested assessment of financial need, but if special circumstances such as a sudden change in family circumstances or redundancy bring about temporary hardship, parents should contact their son's or daughter's Year Team Leader to discuss any short term support that the school might be able to provide. The school is unable to provide **direct** additional financial support outside of that stated above. These subsidies arise from ESFA funded Bursaries, the Pupil Premium and the Northampton Old Grammar School Foundation. Parents paying for the above are **not**, therefore, subsidising the parents who do not pay.

The school will act to ensure that services provided to students strike a balance between providing opportunities which go beyond the curriculum and the need to keep costs to parents at a minimum. The provision of food via the canteen; uniform, books and stationery via the school shops; and school trips are all planned to run at cost and not for profit. Additional Music Tuition, transport for sporting fixtures and the staffing costs of the Y8 and Y12 Residential trips are subsidised for all.

Any student who has been in receipt of free school meals during the past 6 years will receive additional monitoring and support through the pupil premium programme.

## Who is eligible for free school meals?

Your child may be able to get 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 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)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

## Children in care or children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children in care or children with SEN do not automatically qualify for free schools meals. They will need to meet the eligibility criteria above. No discretionary services are offered to these children by the Local Authority as free schools meals is a means tested scheme.

If a child resides in a Local Authority care home they will not qualify for free school meals. This is because government funding has already been allocated to fund their meals.