



Headteacher : Dr Simon Letman BA, MA, EdD
Deputy Head : Nicola Shelley

March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Roll out of Universal Credit

As you may be aware, there have been significant changes to the government's benefits system and Universal Credits are being rolled out across the country. There will be a full service roll-out in the county commencing April 2018 and this may affect your child's eligibility for Free School Meals. We would urge you to apply **before 1st April 2018** as if you are eligible you will be entitled to free school meals for the next four years **regardless of any change in your circumstances**. If you apply after 1st April 2018, it could take up to three months to verify your eligibility.

The school benefits from additional funding, known as Pupil Premium funding, for all our pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals and we get this funding for six years, even if the child was only eligible on the day they applied. This funding is £935 per child each year. Over the six years, this equates to £5,610 for each eligible child. As I am sure you will agree, this is a considerable amount of funding for the school to support your child's learning.

We can use this funding for small, focused group learning, future career opportunities, curriculum trips, extra pastoral care and clubs.

If you believe that your child could currently be eligible for free school meals and you have not yet applied, we would please ask that you consider applying to allow the school to get this extra funding to benefit your child.

If you are currently in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, then you can apply easily online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals :

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Employment & Support Allowance (income related)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- 28 Day Working Tax Credit run on
- Child Tax Credit & an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

You will be told instantly whether you are eligible and it only takes a few minutes to apply.

We would be very grateful to get as much Pupil Premium funding as possible before the new benefits system is introduced as it will continue for the next six years. Your support is much appreciated.

If you have any queries or need assistance accessing the website, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Simon Letman'.

Dr Simon Letman