



16th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

WELLBEING NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2023

Cost-of-living Edition

We know that many families are going through a tough time this winter and we want to do everything we can to help you and your child. At Christmas the college came together to provide 15 hampers for families in need, as well as raising funds for Save the Children by wearing festive knits. If you're struggling with your finances, please get in touch to let us know, as there may be things we can suggest which will help. Please contact me directly by email gloria.gold@ldeutc.co.uk.

We also thought it would be useful to put together, in one place, contacts for where you can access support and this information is contained below.

Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Family Hub

Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

You don't have to be a UK citizen to get support from your local CAB, you just need to be a resident of the local area. The CAB can help you with:

- Getting benefits or organising other financial support
- Accessing support for essential costs (food, bills, rent)

Visit the [Citizens Advice](#) website or contact your local branch to book an appointment. Please note that the local CAB only deals with queries via telephone [Citizens Advice Newham – Citizens Advice East End \(eastendcab.org.uk\)](#)

Family Hub

Contact your local Family Hub to get help accessing all the support you might need as a family. [Find your local hub](#) here

Check you're paying the right amount of tax

Make sure you're on the right tax code. If you aren't you might be due a refund. Use the [Money Saving Expert's](#) free tax code calculator to find out.

Claim any benefits you're entitled to

Use 1 of these benefits calculators to determine whether there are any benefits you could be claiming:

- > [Turn2us](#)
- > [Policy in Practice](#)
- > [Support for migrant families](#) – use this calculator if you are a migrant family, or if you have no recourse to public funds (meaning you're not entitled to the majority of welfare benefits)

You may be able to get benefits paid early if you need cash urgently – this is known as 'a short-term benefit advance'. You will need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) office that's dealing with your claim. You can find further information here regarding the types of benefits you may be able to claim. [Where to get more advice – Benefits you may be able to claim – Newham Council](#)

Check you've received all the government's cost-of-living payments

The government's [cost-of-living payments](#) are available for those receiving certain benefits or tax credits. You don't need to apply for these – if you're eligible the money should go straight into your account.

If you think you're due a payment but haven't received one, [report a missing payment](#) to the government here.

Be aware of scams! If you receive any emails, texts or phone calls asking you to fill in an application form or asking for your bank details to receive a cost-of-living payment, **do not talk to them or send a reply**. Get more information on [cost-of-living scams](#) on the Money Saving Expert's website.

Find out what help you can get with your energy bills

Take a look at these resources from the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) and the [Money Saving Expert](#).

Check if your child is entitled to free school meals (FSM)

If your child is eligible for FSM you need to get them registered. This will allow them to get a free meal at school, and we'll get extra funding (known as the pupil premium) to support your child's learning.

Go to [this government website](#) to check if your child is eligible. If they are, or if you're not sure, you will need to contact [Apply for free school meals – Free school meals – Newham Council](#). Please note that if your child was FSM in their previous school, you may still need to reapply to Newham for LDE UTC.

See what other support you can get from your local authority

Local authorities have many schemes that you might be eligible for, including:

- > The [Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#) – access to food and activities over the school holidays. Note that if your child is eligible for free school meals (see above), they'll also qualify for this programme
- > [Help with transport to school](#)
- > [Help with school uniform costs](#)

[You can find further information here Support available for Newham residents – Cost of living crisis response – Newham Council](#)

Get free or low-cost food

If you're worried about not having enough food to feed your family, you're not alone. There are a number of places offering support.

- > The College runs a breakfast club between 8 – 8.30am which is well attended. All learners can have a free breakfast from 8am – 8.15am with a minimal payment after that time. Learners who are FSM will get a free breakfast.
 - > If you have a child under 4, and meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to [healthy start food vouchers](#)
 - > Our local foodbank is [Newham Food Bank - Foodbank, Charity](#) with further information for Newham here [The Newham Food Alliance – Newham Council](#)
 - > If you are not based in Newham, find your local food bank here: [Bankuet](#), [The Independent Food Aid Network](#), the [Trussell Trust](#), or your local [community fridge](#)
 - > Use food waste apps and websites like [Olio](#) (for free food and household items from your local community), [Too Good To Go](#) (for low-cost food from local restaurants), or [Low Price Foods](#) (food that has passed its best before date, but is still safe to eat)
 - > Become a member of a community shop. These organisations sell food to their members at a reduced price. Some shops are free to join if you meet certain criteria, and others ask for a small contribution. Our local community shop is [Home | The Community Shop Newham](#) but you can find out if there's one near you by checking these websites: [Community Shop](#), [Your Local Pantry](#), [Community Grocery](#)
 - > Get more tips on free and cheap meals from [Which](#)
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Free hygiene products

- We offer our learners free period products and gave out a pack of items to all our KS4 learners prior to the summer break. Learners who are in need should come to the front office.
 - Food banks may offer free toiletries and sanitary products. Check with your local food bank to see what's available (see information above)
 - Find the cheapest disposable sanitary products on [Sanitary Saver](#)
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Replace or repair household items at a low cost or for free

Check if you can get broken household goods replaced or repaired by your local community.

- Get free household goods on [Freecycle](#)
 - Get help with DIY repairs at a [Repair Cafe](#)
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Find a warm space to beat the chill

Some community spaces open their doors to provide a safe and warm space for a few hours. Many also offer hot drinks and wifi.

In Newham these spaces are called warm havens and can be found here:-

- Beckton Globe Library
- Canning Town Library
- Custom House Library
- East Ham Library
- Forest Gate Library
- Green Street Library
- Manor Park Library
- North Woolwich Library
- Plaistow Library

In other areas you can find a warm bank on:

- [Warm Welcome](#)
- [Warm Spaces](#)

Further information

- › Contact [StepChange](#) for debt advice
- › Contact [Shelter](#) if you're having issues related to housing
- › Contact the [Salvation Army](#) for emergency assistance
- › See if you're eligible for [grants from Turn2us](#)
- › Single parents can get support from [Gingerbread](#)