

Dear Parents and Carers,

03 April 2020

National Free School Meals (FSM) Voucher Scheme Launch

As I stated in my previous letter (20 March 2020) we took the decision to put in place a temporary arrangement for you to be paid for FSM while we were awaiting the government to implement a national FSM voucher scheme. I'm pleased to report that the national voucher scheme has now been launched, and we will be transitioning all of our eligible learners onto this new national scheme. It is important to note that there are some key differences between our temporary scheme and the new national scheme, and as such please can you read this letter carefully and start preparing for this change.

The national FSM scheme:

Under the newly announced scheme, all eligible parents/carers will receive a weekly electronic "eGift" voucher via email from a company called Edenred. This eGift can then be exchanged for vouchers for use at your choice of supermarkets from a list of 6 national chains (Asda, Morrison's; Tesco; Sainsbury's; Waitrose; M&S). You will receive more information via email from Edenred, and can view an FAQ by [clicking here](#).

The value of the vouchers under the national scheme is £15 per week per child, and they will be sent to you each week during normal term time weeks. Unfortunately, the government is not providing vouchers during normal school holidays as learners would not normally be receiving FSM during school holidays if the College was open.

When will this change happen?

Continuing our desire to support parents as much as possible, we want to allow you enough time to get ready for this change. Therefore, we will continue to pay our FSM parents/carers £20 per week per child via bank transfer, for each of the upcoming two weeks Easter Holiday. We will not be receiving funding from the government for this, but we feel it is important to support our FSM families while getting ready for the new scheme.

It is important for you to note however that this is one-off support for this Easter only, and from the 20th April 2020 onwards we will no longer be making any bank transfers for FSM learners, but instead you will receive the governments vouchers for £15 per week per child, term time only.

What do you need to do now?

You will only be able to access the eGift vouchers if you have a working email address which you are able to access. It is important that we have your correct email address for us to be able to provide these vouchers. Therefore, please can you complete this short survey ([Click here for the link](#)) to ensure we can get the vouchers to you. Please complete this survey by the 13th April 2020.

We hope that our additional support has been helpful for you and your family, and trust that the new national scheme will be a success.



Geoffrey Fowler,
Principal