

Dear Parents and Carers,

20 March 2020

COVID-19

We would like to support families that currently have access to Free School Meals as soon as possible. The government have publicly stated that a national Free School Meals (FSM) vouchers system will be implemented shortly, however LDE UTC are committed to ensuring our FSM learners are provided for while this national system is put in place.

While we have looked at supermarket vouchers and similar schemes, in the timeframe available and given the current demand, we did not feel this was a feasible option. We also felt that, given the current requirement to limit travel as much as possible, it was important that whatever solution we provided, needed to give parents/carers with flexibility to purchase the food either online or from their nearest open shop, and not be limited to a single supermarket.

We have therefore decided, as an interim measure that we will be paying the free school meals value to parents via a cash transfer direct into their bank account. We will make these payments in weekly instalments to you during term time dates, until an alternative national or local scheme is available.

Our allocation for FSMs is usually £2.40 per day per child, which in the College restaurant can purchase a full meal. However, we recognise that this may not be enough to purchase good quality, nutritional food from your nearest shops, and therefore in order to help parents/carers at this critical time, we are going to pay you £4 per day per child (£20 per week per child).

In order for us to be able to make this payment to yourselves, we will need to know your bank details. You can tell us your bank account details by [clicking here](#) If you can provide your bank details by Sunday 22nd March 2020, we will ensure the money is in your account by the end of Monday 23rd March.

It is important to note that this increased daily allowance, and making payment via bank transfer, is only as a temporary measure until a suitable national, local or alternative College scheme is in place.

We trust that this additional support will mean none of our learners go hungry while the College is closed, and we hope that this arrangement can remove one element of worry from you.

Thank you for your quick responses



Geoffrey Fowler,
Principal