



October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You are probably aware that there are some circumstances in which students are entitled to Free School Meals (FSMs). I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of this valuable source of financial support. If your child is in Year 7 and was in receipt of Free School Meals in the last year of primary school, particularly the last term, because free school meals have now been protected, your child should still be entitled to receive them, regardless of changes to personal circumstances. You do not need to reapply. If your child is in our older year groups and was on FSMs on 1 April 2018 or after, they are also still eligible for these and will continue to receive them. If you think your child may be eligible but you have not previously/recently applied, we would encourage you to do so.

If a student is in receipt of FSMs, the school receives additional Pupil Premium funding (around £950 per student) to support the academic and personal development of the individual, which is hugely beneficial to all. Therefore, we would encourage you to apply as soon as possible if you think you are eligible.

Your child is eligible for FSMs if you/they are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 guarantee 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

For clarity, the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals as follows:

- From 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants will continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time.





- Any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period.
- Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary). The Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2022.
- Very often families have changes in circumstances throughout the academic year. If this applies to your family at any point during your child's time at HHS, please do remember that you can apply for this source of support and do not hesitate to either apply or get in touch with us. For your convenience, you will find the FSM application form attached to the same email as this letter. **Please return the FSM application form directly to North Yorkshire at the address given.** The form can also be downloaded from NYCC, <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.

This may not be relevant to you but if at any point your circumstances change and you feel you may qualify please ask the school office for a Free School Meal (FMB1) form for completion.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Clarke
Academy Head

