

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

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Principal: Kate Evans

10 January 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Update

We recently wrote to you informing you when you register your children for Free School Meals, those eligible are entitled to free lunches and sometimes uniform vouchers, and the College also receives an extra sum of money from the government for each child, called the Pupil Premium. We now know that in April this sum will rise to £600 per child, so we would urge everyone eligible to apply by the 13 January in order that we receive funding next year.

This money is used to provide a range of educational benefits for the pupils, which can include assistance with paying for extra-curricular activities and visits, and music lessons. Even if you do not wish your child to claim free lunches, by registering for them, you will allow the school to claim the associated Pupil Premium. No other benefits that you may be claiming are affected by this.

Claiming Free School Meals has never been easier; you simply need to complete an on-line application form provided by Cambridgeshire County Council. You do not need to provide any paper proof of benefit. The system will automatically check your child's entitlement to Free School Meals and whether they are eligible for the Secondary School Clothing Allowance.

Once approved, Cambridgeshire County Council will check that you continue to qualify for Free School Meals on a regular basis, using the Secure Electronic Checking System. There is no need to reapply at the end of the school year. If you haven't already registered with us for Free School Meals and think you may be eligible, please use the following link to apply and qualify on-line:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/help/>.

Your children are entitled to Free School Meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support *or*
- Income Based Job Seekers' Allowance *or*
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance *or*
- Child Tax Credit – so long as you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income (as assessed by HM revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 *or*
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit *or*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you would like any assistance with claiming or wish to speak to us in confidence please contact the Finance office on Ext 225 who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,



Heidi Kempster
Business Manager

A reflective learning community committed to achieving and sharing excellence in an environment in which every child matters

