

September 2021

Dear Parents

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Pupil Premium is a Government Strategy aimed at reducing the attainment gap for students eligible for Free School Meals, Service Children or those Adopted from Care. The funding RGS receives helps set up projects which make a real difference to our pupils: for example, in the past year students have received one-to-one tuition, support with trips, uniform and sports kit, and help purchasing an iPad in Year 7. This funding is paid to the School for 6 years after the pupil becomes eligible or until the end of Year 11, regardless of any change in personal circumstances. Many of our parents have not claimed Pupil Premium funding despite being eligible and this letter is intended to raise awareness of the benefits of registering. Students can become eligible for Pupil Premium funding by one of the following means:

Free School Meals (FSMs)

If you are currently eligible for FSMs or have been eligible for FSMs at any time since May 2015, then your son will also be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. FSMs can be awarded if you receive one of the following benefits:

- 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)

Although FSMs provide many of our students with a healthy and nutritious diet, which in turn aids better powers of concentration and an improved educational experience, you may not be aware that the additional Pupil Premium funding this initiative attracts is received by the School even if your son decides not to take advantage of the food on offer in the School Dining Room. We would, therefore, urge you to register your son if you are eligible.

Service Children

If one/both of you are currently working in the Armed Forces, or have worked in the Armed Forces in the past five years, your son is eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

'Looked After' Children (adopted from care)

Schools in England can receive Pupil Premium funding for children adopted from care or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO). Schools can also claim the Pupil Premium for children who left care under a child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).

All matters concerning the Pupil Premium and Free School Meals are dealt with discreetly.

For your son to benefit from Pupil Premium funding this year he must be registered. If you believe your son may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding and/or FSMs, please contact our Finance Manager, Dani Iacofano, on 01494 551423 or by email to dji@rgshw.com. We will be happy to advise you on your application.

Yours sincerely,

James Eve
Assistant Headteacher