

April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand that during your child's transition from Year 6 to Year 7 you may have various questions. One of which may relate to support with free school meals. The information below sets out the current process in relation to obtaining free school meals at high school.

Who is eligible for Free School Meals

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, before benefits are taken into account.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit • Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,050 for your child's secondary school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or contribute to school trips.

If eligible, registering your child for free school meals ensures Priestnall School receives the additional funding even if you choose not to take up the offer or are currently on universal free school meals. Any benefits that you currently receive will not be affected.

You can check if your child qualifies for free school meals online via the following website. Please note even if your child has FSM's at primary school you will need to complete a form as the eligibility will not automatically carry over to high school:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

If you are unsure if you are entitled, we would encourage you to enter your details to check and all information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Unashamedly Academic

How does the daily free school meal allowance work in the school?

- Your child will have £1 added to their school meal account for breakfast in the morning. This must be spent before registration starts at 8.30am as it is taken off their balance after this time.
- Your child will then have £3.05 automatically added to their school meal account to use during break/lunchtime. To get the best value from this allowance we do recommend students purchase the lunchtime **meal deal** for £3.05 which consists of **a main meal and tray bake cake/piece of fruit OR a main meal and bottle of water**. If the amount or part of the amount is not spent it is taken off their balance after this time. FSM money is not carried over to the next day.
- Students queue up and pay for school meals just as they do with funds put into their account by a parent/carer. Other students will not be aware if a student is entitled to free school meals.
- Parents/Carers can add funds to their child's school meal account using the MCAS app so that their child can buy extra items if they wish during breaktime etc. School has a stock of snacks in the first aid room if a student requires it and they have no funds on their account.
- Students can see the balance on their account at the till. You can also see the balance by checking on the MCAS app.

Should you have any further questions please contact school via enquiries@priestnallschool.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

The Priestnall School Administration Team