



Monday 30 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Provision of Free School Meals to Eligible Students

The Government is aware that as schools we are concerned about the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on our students currently eligible for benefits-related free school meals for those students who are not in school due to the national closure.

Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide free school meals to eligible children who are not attending due to illness or if the school is closed; but we are in an unprecedented situation.

The Government are currently developing a national approach to providing support through supermarket and shop vouchers and have told us that they will provide further details shortly.

On closure of the College we donated food to the Whittlesey Food bank to make provisions for our vulnerable and Free School Meal students, which parents can still access. While we wait for details from the Government regarding e-vouchers, the College is currently setting up our own scheme whereby all currently registered eligible students will be provided for through supermarket e-vouchers to the equivalent of at least £2.30 per day.

I will be getting back in touch very shortly to provide you with instructions on how to access our new e-voucher scheme.

In the meantime, please do read the information below:

Scam around Free School Meals

*Some Schools have already reported that parents and carers of children in receipt of free school meals are being targeted by fraudsters. Fraudsters are targeting families, emailing parents and carers with messages such as 'If your child is entitled to free school meals send your bank details to the school and they will help with funding while the school is closed'. The email contains links for the parents to follow if they want to receive this funding – **these links are fake. This is a scam.** Please share this information with parents and carers to make them aware of this scam.*

My sincere thanks for your patience while we make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Mr Rob Litten

Executive Headteacher