



**CHESTERTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Chesterton Community College  
Free School Meal Information**

## **Are you missing out on your child's entitlement to Free School Meals?**

According to the latest figures available, around 1/3 of students in Cambridgeshire who are entitled to Free School Meals are not claiming them.

Parents/carers no longer need to complete a paper form. Applying for free school meals online is quick and easy, and no proof of entitlement is needed. On receipt of the on-line application, Cambridgeshire County Council will check for entitlement through a secure Electronic Checking System. All that is needed is the claimant's name, National Insurance number, their children's details and details of their children's schools.

Students who receive free school meals have £2.20 placed on their Cashless Catering accounts at the beginning of every school day. This can be spent at break or lunchtime in the canteen. We would recommend students purchase a main meal and pudding (cost £2.20) at lunchtimes, but the choice is theirs'. At the end of the day, any remaining money is removed from the account. The children cannot be identified as receiving free school meals when they use their account, the process is completely private.

If you are eligible, your child will be able to receive free meals as soon as your entitlement is confirmed and we are notified by the Education Welfare Benefits Service.

### **Who is eligible?**

All children who are at school; and were under 19 at the start of the academic year (5 September 2011) and are claiming or have parents who are claiming:

- Income Support or
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or
- Income-related employment and support allowance or
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or
- Child Tax Credit but who are not entitled to working tax credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190 or
- Guarantee element of state pension credit
- Note: Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school meals.

If you feel you may be eligible, the FSM online application form and printable PDF file can be accessed via the Cambridgeshire County Council website. Please see the attachment entitled FSM online application – quick guide, for information on how to apply.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email [hcoppin@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:hcoppin@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk) or by telephone on 01223 712150 extn 159.

With regards

Ms Hayley Coppin  
Finance Department