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Ocean Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Principal : Mrs J Quarrie

Dear Parents/Carers

3 April 2020

National Voucher Scheme for Free School Meals (FSM)

The government has announced a National Voucher Scheme to provide support for those children eligible for **benefits-related** free school meals.

The Free School Meal vouchers are for **term time only**, and are fully funded centrally, by the government. We have been informed, from DfE's voucher supplier Edenred, on how we should manage the voucher scheme. We already have a list of the pupils eligible and currently in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. Vouchers will be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for that child. Please make sure that the main care giver has an up to date email contact held by the academy office.

Each eligible pupil will receive a weekly £15 voucher. This will be set up to be delivered by email each week until further notice. Where a family has more than one child eligible for benefits-related free school meals, this funding will be combined into one voucher. Through your email address we will send an 'eCode' directly to the parent or carers of the pupils(s) eligible for free school meals. On-line, you will then be asked to choose from a range of supermarkets. These include:

- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S

Once you have received your voucher, you will be able to redeem it in-store at the selected retailer by either:

- presenting the voucher on a smartphone or tablet
- presenting a paper copy of the voucher

Families are free to select the most appropriate food and drink for their child. When selecting products, we have been guided to encourage families to consider health and nutrition within these options. The School Food Standards may act as a useful guide for families and this can be found on line. The vouchers should not be redeemed for any age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

As a parent, if you consider that your child meets the eligibility criteria for free school meals but does not currently receive one, you should make contact with the local authority, who will verify eligibility and possibly award free school meals. <https://online.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/services/freeschoolmeals/>. Please note a voucher will not be issued until BCP have confirmed your eligibility.

We are very grateful for this support from the government in these difficult times. We expect the first FSM vouchers to be sent out to you by email by the end of the Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Quarrie
Principal



