

Melksham Oak Community School

raising aspirations, learning for life, success for all



24th May 2018



Dear Parent/Guardian

We are writing to all parents to remind you that in certain circumstances, you may be eligible to claim Free School Meals. There is no stigma attached to this classification since we have a cashless fingerprint payment system in our canteen. In addition, there is additional funding available for the school when pupils claim Free School Meals, which is used to improve outcomes for students who may be at a disadvantage.

Qualifying criteria include parents who are in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance, Income Support, Child Tax Credit and other state benefits. If the answer is 'yes', please use the link below and if you meet the specified criteria, make your application via Wiltshire Council.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals>

We would also like to hear whether any of our students are from service families, since this also enables us to claim additional funding to help these students. Pupils qualify as a 'service child' if:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- they have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point since 2011
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- they have a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service

If your child meets any of the 'service' criteria, please contact Clare Walters at waltersc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk.

Please also contact Clare Walters if your child is adopted or in a "Special Guardianship" as they are also eligible for extra funding.

Yours

Stephen Clark
Headteacher

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