

Dear Parent

## **FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT**

I am writing to advise you that if you are entitled to a free school meal for your child, you will also be making a substantial contribution to the overall budget of the school, **regardless of whether your child actually has a meal or not.**

**In addition to your child being eligible for a free school meal, Bebington High Sports College receives around £2,000 per child for the general budget.**

This funding is crucial in our school being able to provide the highest quality of education for our children. Presently we have around 30% of our students taking their entitlement but we are aware that there may be at least another 10% of parents who are eligible. This could mean an additional £80,000 - £100,000 in our school budget.

**If you believe that you may be eligible to make a claim, thereby supporting not only your child but the school as a whole, please consider the following:**

Are you or your partner receiving

- Income Support  
Or
- Income-based Jobseeker's allowance  
Or
- Income-related Employment and support Allowance  
Or
- Child tax credit provided they **are not entitled to Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 (as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011)  
Or
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment finishes or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week  
Or
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit  
Or
- Support under Part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Any of these entitle you to a free school meal for your child

As I said, this does not mean that your child has to take the meal. If you and your child prefer, they can still pay or bring a packed lunch but your claiming will help the school tremendously so please register if you are entitled to.

The school catering system operates a cashless system. Students who are entitled to a Free School Meal have their account automatically credited with the appropriate amount of money. The fact that your child is eligible for a Free School Meal therefore is not obvious to others.

You can check whether you qualify and, if so, make a claim by calling

**0151 606 2002**

You will need to have available the details of your (and your partner's, if applicable) name, address, date of birth, National Insurance number, benefits you currently receive and the school details for your child(ren).

You can also obtain advice on Free School Meals and check your eligibility by visiting any One Stop Shop, or from Wirral Council's web site [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

Application forms can be downloaded off our school website at [www.bebingtonhigh.com](http://www.bebingtonhigh.com), or collected from the school office.

Finally if you are still unsure how to check you eligibility or how to apply please contact our school and ask for S Lowey.

If you are eligible, simply making one phone call may make a huge difference to your child and the budget for the school.

Yours sincerely

B Jordan  
Headteacher