

PENKRIDGE BANK ROAD
RUGELEY
STAFFORDSHIRE
WS15 2UE

PRINCIPAL: RACHAEL SANDHAM

T +44 (0)1889 802440

E enquiries@hartschool.org.uk

www.hartschool.org.uk



**THE HART
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

RSA/ACE

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Dear Parent and Carers

Free School Meal Entitlement and Free School Meal breakfast provision

We understand that the times we are currently living in are both uncertain and challenging. Alongside this many families are facing changes in their financial circumstances.

If your circumstances have changed, and you believe that you now meet the following criteria, please complete an online application

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Overview.aspx>.

- Income Support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit **but not** Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. **Please note:** anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.



Should you require additional information you should contact Staffordshire County Council directly on 0300 111 8007, selecting option 3 followed by option 2 or visit their website: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Q001.aspx>

Your child will remain eligible for 6 years. Therefore, if your child is in Year 7, and already receiving free school meals (FSM), we recommend you reapply at the start of their school career. This will help to ensure they continue to free meals even if your circumstances change.

Once your eligibility has been confirmed, Staffordshire County Council will inform The Hart School and your child will be allocated their allowance directly to their school account. Currently the allowance is £2.50 per day and can be spent across either or both break 1 and break 2. This includes the option to buy the meal of the day deal at £2.50. It includes a nutritious hot meal and either a drink or desert.

The Hart School recognises the importance of a healthy breakfast. Eating breakfast helps to boost energy levels and alertness, allowing children to concentrate on their studies, whilst also providing essential nutrients for good health. Our breakfast provision is open to all students. Each morning there will be a range of items to choose from such as breakfast baps, fruit pots, beans on toast, drinks etc... Items can be bought individually however, there is a morning meal deal at a cost of £1.40 which will get them a hot meal and either a hot or cold drink. To support our students entitled to free school meals The Hart School provides and additional daily allowance of £1.40 to spend at breakfast. This allowance must be spent on breakfast and we strongly recommend your child make use of this additional allowance, especially if they are not having breakfast at home, so that they are set up for the day.

Yours sincerely

Anita Cleary
Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning