



SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Free School Meals – Checking Eligibility

June 2017

Dear parents and guardians,

We are part of 'The London Grid for Learning' as the provider of our broadband, email services and some educational software. One new service provided is very useful for it can give an instant check on your eligibility to free school meals for your children. This service will give a definitive answer using direct links to the Department for Education's checking system for confirmation of eligibility.

If eligible, your son can get a daily allowance to spend in the school canteen, automatically added to his account. In addition the school would receive a 'Pupil Premium' on our funding for the following year worth £935 to the school to spend on your son (e.g. free music and LAMDA lessons, most school trips free and other benefits). Even a short term entitlement to free school meals means that a Pupil Premium payment is made to the school for the rest of his time in the main part of the school.

You can log on to the free school meal checking service at www.fsm.lgfl.net and check your entitlement yourself. We have trialled this with a few parents and it is a little messy. The system insists that you use the account that was created when you completed your son's Common Application Form for entry to secondary schools. It will help you replace forgotten passwords but it needs a bit of persistence. **However, there is an easy alternative – Two school employees only (the Administrators of Free School Meals - Ms O'Connor and Mrs Hawkins) can check your children's eligibility if they have just three pieces of information – one parent's first and second name, that parent's NI number and that parent's date of birth.** If this check shows eligibility for free school meals they can follow it up with you very quickly. You can do this by sending an email to office@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk Put 'free school meal check' in the title line and give your name (first and second name), date of birth and NI number in the text of the email. You will get an email back with the result of the enquiry.

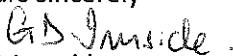
We will adapt our application forms for free school meals to include this information and conduct the on-line check of eligibility ourselves. This is much easier than the process we have followed up to this date.

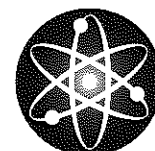
Please check your entitlement or ask us to do it for you and please take the free school meals if you are eligible – it is your entitlement; the school is reimbursed for the value of the meals by the government and given additional funding called Pupil Premium.

If you have any queries about the process please ring the school office and ask to speak to Ms O'Connor.

By way of a 'thank you' to parents for taking part, and regardless of individual outcomes, The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) is able to provide parents of children attending LGfL-connected schools (such as Sutton Grammar School) with Sophos Anti-Virus software, free of charge, to protect the computers used by pupils at home. To gain access to this software there is a short registration process which will also give you access, if required, to other LGfL services and benefits that are available to pupils at this school. Please be assured there is no catch, no cost and no advertising. LGfL (a UK education charity set up in 2001 and owned by London's 33 local authorities) exists to support education and is leading this initiative to make it easier for parents to apply for free school meals and to encourage the drawdown of unclaimed Pupil Premium.

Yours sincerely


G D Ironside
Headmaster



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