

July 2026

Dear parent/ guardian,

Re- Free School Meals

As you may already be aware, The Government have made recent changes in relation to the delivery of Free School Meals in maintained schools, academies and free schools, to pupils of all ages that meet the criteria.

From the start of the 2026 - 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free meal. It is important to note the 2 categories:

Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. **Families will receive holiday vouchers.**

Expanded FSM, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM (as above), but who are in households receiving Universal Credit, even if their household income is greater than £7,400. **Families will not receive holiday vouchers.**

Transitional protections for free school meals have been in effect since 1 April 2018. This has meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed.

Transitional protections now only apply until the end of the current academic year 25/26. Therefore, if your child has been eligible for free school meals up until this point, **their entitlement is no longer a guarantee.** Please re-apply [here](#) to ensure they continue to receive their FSM when we return in September.

For further information, we advise you to read the DfE guidance [here](#) , but should you have any queries after doing so, please email us at schooloffice@baconscollege.co.uk and we will do our best to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

S. Tyler

Samantha Tyler
Office Manager /PA to Principal



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