

WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

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Headteacher:

Mr A Leese BA (Hons) NPQH

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupil Premium

I am writing to you regarding important information about additional funding for your child. Our records indicate that we receive additional funding for your child through Pupil Premium funds from the government. This may be for a range of reasons including the following:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6
 years, including eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- children looked after by local authorities, referred to as looked-after children
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, referred to as previously lookedafter children

This additional funding available for your child is to benefit your child. The government has increased funding for Pupil Premium to £1075 per pupil. This is additional funding that is used in school to support your child's education. Please note that the pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. It can be used:

- to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer
- for whole class interventions which will also benefit other pupils

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will also qualify for the **Holiday Activity and Food Programme**. There are a number of excellent holiday activities over the coming Christmas holidays 2025 which include a hot meal that you could book your child onto for free using this link: Eequ - After school. In place of school. Beyond school.

Food vouchers may also be available through the **Household Support Fund**. More information can be found here: <u>Household support fund - Staffordshire County Council</u>

Free School Meals

Eligibility for free school meals has changed in recent years. If your child is not currently claiming free school meals, you may find that you are now eligible. To find out more, please visit Who can apply for free school meals? - Staffordshire County Council.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just those who are unemployed, please look at the list on the Staffordshire County Council website using the link above.

- 2. Registering is really quick and easy please use the link above, or if you need support, please contact school reception.
- 3. Please register if you want your child to have a free, healthy school meal at lunchtime which could save you more than £400 a year; the school will also get £1075 extra to support your child's education.
- 4. If you don't want your child to have school meals, you could still register your child and he/she can continue with packed lunches as usual but the school will still get £1075 extra to support your child.

Please note that this information is managed confidentially and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Please help us to claim the money that the school is entitled to receive to support your child.

If you think you might be eligible, please complete the FSM application using the link below:

Apply online - Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council

At Walton, we want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support that we can. Pupil Premium funding will be used to support curriculum areas including activities and interventions to accelerate your child's progress in their studies. A range of intervention programmes take place throughout the year with identified students to further support progress, in subjects such as reading, literacy, maths and English. We provide opportunities on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 3.15pm-4.15pm in Student Support (room 31) to ensure that your child can access computer technology and support from a dedicated member of staff in order to complete classwork, independent study and homework, providing an effective study environment for students. If your child would like to attend, they do not have to book a place but can attend as regularly as they wish.

We are now working with the Digital Poverty Alliance to provide families in need of technology to support their child's learning with a free computer, under the 'Tech4Families' scheme. If your child does not have access to a suitable device at home, find out more at Tech4Families-Digital Poverty Alliance, providing the name of your child's Form Tutor as the in-school contact. A member of staff in school will review and verify your application for the Tech4 Families scheme.

We are now running a new uniform donation scheme where families can donate any Walton uniform items that they no longer use, which can be redistributed to families in need. If you have any clean and undamaged uniform items that you would like to donate, please drop them into our school reception, and if you would like to access any items of free uniform, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Should you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year to discuss their provision further, including study facilities, support with educational visits or other areas where your child can be supported to fulfil their educational potential.

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Barker Deputy Headteacher