****

**Free School Meals (FSM)**

The Eastwood Academy is able to check eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) using a simple, secure and confidential online process.

If you are accepting the offer of a place for your child at the Academy, and believe you are eligible, please return this form as soon as possible so that we can check and confirm before your child starts school in September.

You do not have to pay for school lunches if you receive any of the following benefits:

* Income Support.
* Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
* The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
* Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190.
* Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you believe or know that your child(ren) are entitled to FSM, please complete the attached form and bring it to the Academy Finance Office by **Friday 30th June** (NB: only one parent or carer’s details may be used to apply for this benefit).

If you are eligible for FSM, and you apply, the Academy will also benefit. The government has introduced the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) to help children from lower income families reach their full potential and to achieve higher academic grades at school. Under this funding arrangement, schools receive **£935** for every pupil registered for FSM, so it is really important to the Academy to make sure every child that qualifies is actually registered.

All meals are required to meet the nutritional standards set out by the School Food Trust. The Academy’s school meals are fresh, healthy, nutritious and varied – please refer to the following link to the Academy’s website - [Food Provision at Eastwood](http://www.eastwoodacademy.co.uk/index.php/pupils/catering)

Should you have any queries, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. S. Lynn

FSM Administrator

Slynn@eastwood.southend.sch.uk