

October 2020

Dear parents

We are all too aware of the increasing financial difficulties the current situation might be causing to families. If you think that your child might be eligible for free school meals, we thought it would be helpful to remind you of the criteria:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- A run-on Working Tax Credit - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of your most recent assessment periods)

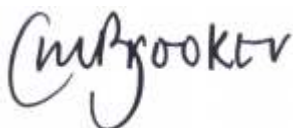
Children who receive any of the above benefits in their own right, are also entitled to Free School Meals.

If you think you might be entitled to claim for your child/children, please complete the attached application form (copy also on the schools' websites) and email to [schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk). If you are not sure, or simply want some advice about this, please email our Financial Controller, Mrs Wiseman: [h.wiseman@aretelearningtrust.org](mailto:h.wiseman@aretelearningtrust.org)

We would also urge you to contact your child's school if support is needed over the coming half term. You will be aware that in some parts of the UK, free school meals are being provided during school holidays by the devolved government. As a trust, we intend to provide the support ourselves if the government does not decide to commit to the same financial support.

Some parents are embarrassed to ask for help. I would assure you that we keep all communication in this regard confidential and that the process of logging the children receiving meals is very discreet.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. CM. Brooker  
**CEO, Arété Learning Trust**

*"Being the best we can be by uniting schools,  
communities and families, to secure success  
for all young people"*

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