

Telephone: (01622) 752101
Facsimile: (01622) 753680
Website: www.mgs.kent.sch.uk
E-Mail: school@mgs.kent.sch.uk

M Tomkins BSc NPQH
Headmaster

2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness amongst parents about Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Grant.

The current economic climate has seen an increase in the number of children who would be eligible. Often eligible parents are reluctant to claim Free School Meals for their children and may feel that there is a stigma attached to the process – there should not be. We want to make sure that every child at MGS who is eligible for Free School Meals receives them.

Kent County Council provides an online application service for Free School Meals. It can be found via [http://www.kent.gov.uk/](http://www.kent.gov.uk) and type “Free School Meals” into the internal search box. This is easy to use and gives parents the opportunity to complete an eligibility assessment themselves to establish whether they are entitled to Free School Meals. If eligible, they can complete an application for Free School Meals and submit it directly online via the same site. To be eligible a pupil must be under 19 and in full time attendance at a state maintained school. Other criteria can be found on the website.

Students who are in receipt of Free School Meals also bring additional government funding into the school. This funding is called the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). Other groups also attract PPG funding- pupils who have claimed Free School Meals at any point in the last 6 years (Ever 6 FSM); pupils who are children of a parent in active service in the UK Armed Forces; Looked After Children and Children adopted from Care.

The Pupil Premium Grant is largely spent on tracking progress and ensuring that children in these groups achieve suitable attainment compared to their peers. At MGS, the very great majority of students do achieve their potential without the need for additional intervention and support. Sometimes, however, this is not the case and this is where the school will use the PPG to provide further support as outlined in the Pupil Premium Strategy statement which is available on the school website.

MGS also offers financial support to PPG students by offering their parents / carers access to a special PPG bursary fund. This is a further benefit of claiming Free School Meals and we would like to ensure that you are aware of this opportunity and are able to benefit from it if you wish to and are eligible. This year, we are allocating a grant of up to £150 (dependent upon funding available) to each eligible child between the ages of 11-16 (Years 7-11). This grant can be used by parents to buy items of school uniform, school equipment, school resources (such as calculators, trigonometry sets, etc.) or revision books and text books. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list - if you purchase an item to support your son in his education at MGS then you can make a claim for reimbursement from the School Bursary. A claim form is attached to this

letter. Once you have made your purchase, please complete the claim form and return it directly to the School Bursary, together with receipts for the items purchased (including for items purchased over the summer break in preparation for the start of term). While we hope very much that eligible parents will respond positively to this grant, applications are entirely optional. The grant can be claimed at any point between now and end of Term 1: **Claim deadline- Friday 15th October 2021**. We set this deadline so that any unclaimed bursary funding can be redeployed to the full advantage of our PPG students over the rest of the financial year. However, should your circumstances change after the deadline date and you would like to apply for further financial assistance please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence and we will try to assist.

Finally, if your son does not qualify for Free School Meals but you are suffering financial hardship and wish to apply for a small contribution towards the purchase of educational equipment, resources or uniform for your son then please do not hesitate to contact me directly as the school may be able to help. Please be assured that all claims will be treated confidentially.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

**Miss R Johnson
Deputy Head**

Please find the PPG bursary claim form below

Pupil Premium Grant Claim Form

Student Name:

Form (if known):

Parent/Carer Name

Contact email/telephone number in case of query

Date of Purchase	Item Purchased	Total Cost

Please attach receipts detailing the purchases you are claiming above.

Bank details for BACS re-imburement:

Account Name:

Sort Code:

Account No:

Please return this form with accompanying receipts to the Bursary at Maidstone Grammar School.
Receipts and completed form can be scanned and emailed to: finance@mgs.kent.sch.uk