



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Headteacher: Mr Dom Downes

January 2022

Dear families,

Free School Meals Entitlement

Many families do not apply for Free School Meals, even if they are entitled to them. We would like to remind you of the benefits of doing so and the easy application process.

Why apply for Free School Meals?

- Your financial situation may have recently changed, making you eligible for this benefit;
- We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. A free, healthy school meal can help to improve pupils' readiness to learn and helps you save up to £400 on the cost of school lunches;
- Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £935 pupil premium funding for our school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. Even if your child chooses not to have the free meal, our school still receives the funding;
- Applying for Free School Meals is confidential. Fellow students do not know who receives Free School Meals – only school and catering staff know this information;
- Families, who are eligible for Free School Meals, are likely to receive vouchers from East Sussex council over the holidays to assist in paying their child's lunch;
- It will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

How to apply for Free School Meals

Children of secondary school age may receive Free School Meals if their parents or carers receive any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit and a household income less than £7,400 a year (excluding benefits)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit if your annual household income isn't over £16,190

For more information, please visit the following web page: [East Sussex County Council school meals information \(click here\)](#)

Families can apply for Free School Meals via the [East Sussex Parent Portal \(click here\)](#)



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Alternatively, families can contact the East Sussex County Council Admissions and Transport team, who coordinate free school meal applications, by phone, email or letter:

Admissions and Transport team

County Hall

St Anne's Crescent

Lewes BN7 1UE

[Email via webpage \(click here\)](#)

Phone: 0300 330 9472

Opening hours for telephone enquiries are Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm

It is the East Sussex County Council Admissions and Transport team, who will be able to offer support and advice regarding free school meal applications.

We do encourage every family, who is entitled to this provision, to apply via one of the routes described above. For more information about how we support our Pupil Premium students at Rye College, please read our 2022-23 [Rye College Pupil Premium Strategy](#).

If you have any questions, please email office@ryecollege.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D. Downes

Headteacher