



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL
YSGOL BRENIN HARRI'R VIII

Headteacher/Prifathrawes: Mrs E. Lewis BA (Hons) MA Ed

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Dear Parent/guardian,

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support; we have had a great start to the term. Nearly all pupils have looked very smart and well presented in their uniform with rucksacks full of pens, pencils and books.

All pupils have received a student planner, which contains useful information, plus they record their homework in this. I would be grateful if you could sign the planner on a weekly basis.

As a school, we are always looking for opportunities to further engage parents and enhance our communication with yourselves. With this in mind, I shall be holding regular "open door" sessions between 4pm and 7pm. You do not need to make an appointment but for health and safety reasons you will need to report to Reception where you will be met by a member of senior staff. The dates for the "open door" sessions are:-

- Thursday 4th October
- Thursday 8th November
- Thursday 6th December
- Monday 7th January
- Thursday 7th February
- Monday 18th March
- Monday 29th April
- Monday 20th May
- Thursday 27th June
- Monday 8th July

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

I am also writing to remind you of the criteria for claiming Free School Meals (FSM) for your child / children. **This service is provided by Monmouthshire County Council and is a sum equivalent to £1,150 per child per year.** I am aware that family circumstances can change very quickly.

The percentage of FSM data for every school is extremely important as it has a large bearing on our school budget and is used to compare the academic performance of 'similar schools'. Even if your child does not opt/require a free school meal, the school receives an additional **£1,150** in funding per child per year that is used to provide additional support in and out of the classroom. We would ask that, if you are eligible, you apply for a free school meal; this would be extremely helpful to the school.

You are eligible to claim Free School Meals if you receive one of the following grants:

- *Income support*
- *Income Based Jobseekers Allowance*
- *Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*

- *Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190. (HM Revenue and Customs are responsible for assessing the level of annual income.)*
- *Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.*
- *Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.*
- *Universal Credit*

If you receive **Working Tax Credit**, you will not be entitled to Free School Meals for your child even if you also receive one of the grants listed above.

To apply for this grant, please complete the online application form on the Monmouthshire County Council website <https://forms.monmouthshire.gov.uk/officeforms/fsm1.ofml>

If you would like support with any aspect of the application, please contact our Wellbeing and Learning Support Officers on 01873 735373.

At King Henry VIII School we have invested in a biometric 'cashless catering' system. One advantage of this system is that FSM children are now anonymous in the dinner queue and at the tills, which we know, was a disincentive under the old 'ticket' system we had in place. Furthermore the use of the 'cashless' system has a significant impact on reducing queues at break and lunchtime. Full menus displaying what is on offer in our canteens is available on our website.

CONTACT DETAILS

The majority of school information is now sent out via email. General school messages are also communicated through our school Twitter account @Kinghenryschool, if you are able to please follow us.

It is extremely important that we have up to date contact details for all parents/guardians. If you have not been receiving emails from us can you please contact Reception to check your details.

I would like to thank you for your support, as always, with the above matters.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Lewis
Headteacher