

6 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 7 Biometrics

We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students into the academy this week.

As new students to the academy, it is important that we are able to take all students' biometric fingerprints which obtains access to each student's Ipay account. This is the safest way for students to obtain lunches from their own Ipay account.

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to obtain students' biometric fingerprints due to a technical error.

We are happy to advise that we are able to provide a free snack at break time and a free lunch for the remainder of the week to all year 7 students.

All biometric information will aim to be collected no later than Friday 8 September and from Monday 11 September students should be able to obtain their lunches using their biometric fingerprints.

We ask the parents to ensure relevant funds are available on students' Ipay accounts for Monday 11 September.

Free school meals

I would like to draw to the attention of parents/carers the eligibility criteria for accessing free school meals. As the cost of living continues to have an impact on all of us, I am aware people who may previously have not been entitled to free school meals may well be.

Not only does applying for free school meals ensure that children get a hot meal at school it also provides additional funding for school so we can better support our students.

Children may be able to receive free school meals if their parent/carers receives at least one of the following:

- Universal Credit – with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit

- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit – provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'Run On'- paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

How to Apply?

You need to complete an online application, via Middlesbrough Local Authority, if you are not currently in receipt of free meals but believe that you qualify. The link is below: [Free School Meals Application](#) - you will need to sign up for a Middlesbrough Council account to do so.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GSKM', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Skidmore
Principal