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Midlothian

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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



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Dear Parent/Carer

Free school meals/clothing grant and Educational Maintenance Allowance for session 2021/22

We are writing to make you aware that our school community receives £1200 funding from the Scottish Government for each pupil between S1 and S3 who is registered for free school meals. This is called Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and at Beeslack we use the money to help fund a wide range of interventions to support our young people and their attainment.

We would encourage you to sign up for Frees School Meals if you are eligible. PEF funding greatly enhances the experiences for all of our learners at BCHS.

In previous sessions we introduced a number of interventions that we believe will bring sustainable improvement of both opportunity and outcome for our pupils.

How do you know if your child is eligible for free school meals?

If you receive:

- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £610)
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Your child is also entitled to free school lunches and a clothing grant if you receive:

- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your annual income is under £6,900

Please note that if you are eligible for free school meals you will also have automatic entitlement for a school clothing grant of £100.00 per child to assist with purchasing school uniform.



At Beeslack we #strivetobe successful, curious, responsible, resilient and respectful to allow us all to flourish, grow and achieve.



Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is:

- for students from low-income families, who are in full-time education after the statutory school leaving age.
- for students attending full time and part time non-advanced college education
- a means tested weekly allowance based on school attendance.
- £30 per week, paid fortnightly into the student's bank account. Payments are only made when students have 100% weekly attendance.

Qualifying students must be:

- over 16 on 1 March and stay on at school from August
- from households with one dependent child and annual income under £24,421
- or from households with more than one dependent child and annual income under £26,884

Application forms for both Free School Meals and EMA will be uploaded onto the Midlothian Council Website during the month of July. These should be completed electronically. You can click on the following link which will take you to the Free School Meals/EMA sites:

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants

[Education Maintenance Allowance \(EMA\) application forms | Education Maintenance Allowance - Application \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

Help is available from the Free School Meals Team at Midlothian Council and they can be contacted on 0131 271 3655 or fsmawards@midlothian.gov.uk.

If you need further support when we return to school in August you can contact Mrs Currie, our Pupil Support & Welfare Officer, at the school on 01968 678060 or g.currie@mgfl.net.

Should you wish to discuss any of the information above or request assistance with the application process out-with the drop-in sessions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Semple
DHT