

15 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Free School Meals – National Voucher Scheme Update**

The Government this week announced the launch of a national supermarket voucher scheme for those families and children who qualify for free school meals. This scheme will run during the current period of school closures and starts on Monday 18 January 2021.

The scheme will be administered by Edenred and is run by the Department for Education (DfE). This is the same scheme as was used during the national lockdown and school closure period last year. Initially, it will run from 18 January to 14 February 2021 and will provide one £15 voucher per eligible child, per week.

Many of you will be familiar with how the scheme works, but for reference details of how you can access the system and the supermarkets that are accepting vouchers are contained in the links below.

[SelectGrocery FSM ParentCarerFAQs.pdf \(edenred.co.uk\)](#)

[Edenred-Select-Grocery-eCode-Redemption-Userguide.pdf](#)

On this scheme, you will be issued with an ecode via email. It is important that the academy holds a valid, working email address for you in order to send your ecode. If you need to amend your email address or provide one, please do so by contacting [enquiries@accordmat.org](mailto:enquiries@accordmat.org) at the earliest opportunity.

If you do not have access to email, we can arrange to download the voucher on your behalf and post out to your home address. Please note this will take longer to arrive. If you need to access this service please telephone your child's academy with details of which supermarket you would like to choose.

The first vouchers will be issued from the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and fortnightly thereafter. This means you will receive one voucher for £30 to cover one child for two weeks. If you have more than one child you will receive one voucher to cover multiple children to the appropriate amount for two weeks. Please allow up to 4 days from 18<sup>th</sup> January for your ecode to arrive before contacting the Trust.

### **Backdated Free School Meal Vouchers**

You may also be aware that the Trust has offered food parcels to families during the first two weeks of term and these have been well received by those families requesting parcels. The Trust will also begin to issue backdated vouchers via Wonde to all families and children who qualify for free school meals for the period Monday 4 to Sunday 17 January 2021. All eligible families regardless of whether a food parcel has been provided will receive this voucher via email. If you have received a printed voucher in the past this will be sent to you via post using the supermarket requested during the last school closure.

If you have any queries regarding the Free School Meal Voucher Schemes or your child's entitlement please do not hesitate to contact us at [enquiries@accordmat.org](mailto:enquiries@accordmat.org).

I would like to thank all parents, pupils and students for their continued support during these difficult times. I fully appreciate the challenges the closure of schools brings to parents and as a Trust we are committed to doing everything we can to support our pupils, students and their families during this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'AW', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Alan Warboys  
Chief Executive Officer