



# The Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust

Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.

**16th April 2020**

**Dear Parent/Carer**

Over recent weeks, 900,000 people have signed up for Universal Credit, which is more than nine times the normal number of people who might register on the system to help them through a rough patch when they lose some income, or to top it up if they are earning less than they need to live on. This is hardly surprising given the devastating financial impact which Coronavirus has had on many people.

If you have been impacted financially by the crisis and are now eligible for Universal Credit, please also remember to **apply for Free School Meals**, if you have not done so already. You may also be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you are eligible for Free School Meals, there will be a national scheme to provide supermarket vouchers from 20<sup>th</sup> April onwards, which will operate during term time only. The weekly voucher will have a value of £15 per week and can be used at a range of supermarkets.

You can apply for Free School Meals through the following website:

[https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500186/education\\_benefits/7355/apply\\_for\\_free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500186/education_benefits/7355/apply_for_free_school_meals)

If you do not have access to the internet, or need support to check your eligibility, please contact school and we will help you with the process.





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Hopefully, once this crisis is over, many families will find themselves in a stronger position financially. However, by applying for Free School Meals now – even if it's just for a short period - our school will continue to receive additional money to support your child's education over a number of years.

Finally, we are aware that sometimes it takes a long time for families to receive the benefits to which they are entitled. If you find yourself in this position, please make sure you contact us so we can signpost you to places which may be able to help.

We are keeping all the families in Wythenshawe in our prayers during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Kelly  
Headteacher

