



25th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

**Free School Meals provision during school closure**

Following the closure of schools across the United Kingdom on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 it was announced that a national voucher scheme would be put in place to support families whose children are eligible for free school meals. So far there has been little clarification from the government or Tameside LA as to the details of the voucher system and when it will be put in place.

To support families whose children attend Denton Community College and are eligible for free school meals we have finalised our own arrangements to provide a voucher scheme for an interim period. This letter sets out how our scheme will operate and how parents can check that their child is eligible.

All pupils who are identified on our school information system as eligible for free school meals will automatically be eligible for the scheme. The scheme will operate on the following basis:

- Vouchers will be provided to the value of a free school meal per weekday for an initial two week period (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 inclusive) which currently amounts to £23.50 per voucher, per child.
- The parent identified as first contact on our system should have received a text message. On receipt of the message the parent will be asked to select a supermarket of their choice from the list provided and confirm their email address.
- An e-voucher will then be sent to the confirmed email address for parents / carers to redeem at their chosen store.

Please note the following:

- If you think that your child is currently registered for free school meals but no message has been received, check first via the portal at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside> to make sure that your child is registered. If they are not registered, you will need to apply via the portal.
- If your child is currently registered as eligible for free school meals and no message has been received, please get in touch with school via [info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk](mailto:info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk) to check that your contact details are correct. Unfortunately we are unable to amend contact details over the phone and so will require written verification for any changes to be made.
- If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals but you have not applied, you can find more information on our website <http://www.dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk/free-school-meals/>.
- Due to initial set up of the financial processes involved, it may take a couple of days for the voucher to be sent to your device – please be patient, we expect you should receive it no later than early next week.

**Please be aware that fraudsters are already sending out scam emails and texts to parents relating to free school meals. You should NOT send any bank details in response to these emails or texts about free school meals, even if they claim to be from the Department for Education.**

We will provide further updates regarding arrangements for free school meals vouchers beyond 3<sup>rd</sup> April. I hope that during this period, you and your family members stay safe and are able to remain healthy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Rule".

Mr G Rule  
Headteacher