

Free School Meals and Other Support Available

The cost of living is something that is constantly being discussed. As a school we will be exploring what the cost of living means on a day to day basis for students, but what this also looks like over the year. Times are hard and may become even more difficult in months to come. There is a variety of support out there and we will continue to listen and seek worthwhile opportunities to make sure no child is left behind or without the basics they need.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR DISADVANTAGED PUPILS - HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



FSM Contact Details

You can contact the Free School Meals Team by email at FSM@wakefield.gov.uk

Free School Meals
County Hall
Bond Street
Wakefield
WF1 2QL

hst@wakefield.gov.uk
01924 305 061

Outwood Academy Freeston

Your child may be able to get **free school meals** if you get any of the following (correct at time of writing July 2023):

- 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
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household earnings must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

The following **organisations** can support colleagues, parents and our wider school community during a time of financial hardship.

Local Support

- Normanton Foodbank
<http://normanton.foodbank.org.uk/>
- Wakefield Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) free on 0800 144 8848 or visit www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk
- Cashwise on 01977 724651 or visit www.getcashwise.co.uk.

National Support

- [Turn2Us](#) – an organisation dedicated to helping young people budget, make better financial decisions and access grants that they might be eligible for.
- [Citizens Advice](#) – there is a dedicated page to support with the cost of living crisis.
- [Martin Lewis' MoneySavingExpert](#) – tips and guidance for making the most of your money, including breakdowns of the latest financial updates and what they mean for you.
- [The Trussell Trust](#) – to help locate local food banks for those in need.

Other Benefits

You may also receive help towards residential trips, school visits or music lessons. If you feel you have missed any of these opportunities please contact your child's Learning Manager.

How long will it take to process the claim Free School Meals?

The Local Authority aims to process applications within 5-10 working days. Once they have determined the outcome of the application they will advise our academy and you will be issued with a letter.

Our academy will ensure this information is treated in the strictest confidence and handled sensitively.

Normanton Foodbank

<http://normanton.foodbank.org.uk/>

Food banks provide a minimum of three days emergency food to people in crisis, alongside additional support.

Food banks work with frontline professionals to identify people who need support and give them a food bank voucher. These professionals include local agencies like children's centres, housing associations, advice charities, and mental health teams, who are best placed to assess need.

Current Support

- All students have access to free breakfast from 8 am in the dining room.
 - Free School Meals students are encouraged to purchase a main meal including desert and drink at lunchtime.
 - All enrichment activities are free to all students.
 - All Year 7 students are provided with a free uniform.
 - Used uniform donated back to the academy is washed and available freely to students who require it.
 - All Year 7 students will be provided with essential equipment at the start of term.
 - The Hardship Fund can be accessed to support purchasing uniform and other items. See policy for full details on our website [here](#).
 - MyOn library (online) was purchased so all students can access books at home or at school.
 - Most trips in school have been free to all students. We ask for voluntary contributions to help with the cost of the trips.
 - DT - we cover the majority of costs and ask for a small contribution.
 - Period products are free for students to access throughout the day in various places around the academy.
 - Staff are on hand to help with any questions or to discuss support in the strictest confidence.
- There are many other support mechanisms such as one to one tutors and other applications which aid to remove barriers to learning and help students flourish which can be reviewed in our Pupil Premium policy.

FREE
Good quality, secondhand
SCHOOL UNIFORM

Normanton School Uniform Exchange

Visit the shop in Normanton Market (opposite B&M). No need to bring anything to exchange, just come and take what you need, it's all FREE!

Open every Tuesday from 9am - 2pm during term time

If you can't make it to the shop, just email normyuniform@gmail.com with what you need and we'll arrange a collection time that suits you.

Follow us on Facebook for more information

Supported by the well project



HELP HUB
To find your local hub visit
www.wakefield.gov.uk/hub

**Do you live in
the Wakefield district
and access government benefits?**

You may be entitled to other benefits and these could be backdated