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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

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29th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Free School Meals & Sanitary Products

Unfortunately during the current pandemic I have had a number of parents contact me with regards to claiming free school meals due to parents employment situation changing. DSTC is able to access additional funding for every student who is entitled to Free School Meals (even if the student decides not to have a school meal).

This funding is used to support students in a variety of ways so if your daughter is entitled to Free School Meals, or you think she may possibly be entitled, and you do not already claim them I would strongly recommend that you make an application. **At present we are also able to provide free sanitary products for students claiming free school meals - your daughter would need to collect products from her Pastoral Leader confidentially.**

Your daughter might be entitled to Free School Meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).
- 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 feel that your daughter may be entitled to Free School Meals you can apply to Kent County Council online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>.

If you would like support in filling out the form, please do contact office@dstc.kent.sch.uk in the first instance. A member of the pastoral team will be able to help.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Ellis".

Mrs Deborah Ellis
Vice Principal/Designated Safeguarding Lead

