



16 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Pupil Premium

You might be aware that the government supplies a direct grant to schools for every student in receipt of free school meals (FSM) called the Pupil Premium. The school currently receives £955 for each student eligible for FSM. This funding, however, is also available for any student who has received FSM in the last 6 years (known as the ever6). A further grant of £2345 is received for students who are Looked After Children.

Your child has been identified as being eligible for the Pupil Premium and therefore the purpose of this letter is to inform you of the ways in which Pupil Premium funding may be spent.

Examples of areas in which funding has been spent during the academic year 2020-2021:

- Tuition in English, mathematics and science.
- Lesson equipment and resources.
- Textbooks and study guides.
- Laptops (where students do not already have access to a computer at home).
- Instrumental music lessons.
- Assistance with uniform costs. Should you wish to apply for help with school uniform, simply fill in the uniform request page on the website - select what you'd like and this will then be sent to me to fulfil the order: <https://www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk/ppuniform>
- School trips: Please return completed forms to finance with 'Pupil Premium' written at the top. These will then be passed to me for approval and I will contact you to let you know the outcome. Please bear in mind that, due to current covid restrictions, many of our extra-curricular activities and school trips are not taking place. We hope to be able to resume these at some point in the future.

When Pupil Premium money is used for school trips, it may be possible to completely fund smaller trips, or partly fund larger trips. Despite this, parents will be required to pay the deposit to secure their place and show commitment to the trip.

Last academic year we purchased a license to Lexia PowerUp <https://www.lexiapowerup.com/> which is an online resource to support students with their English Language performance. All Pupil Premium students in years 8-11 have already been signed up and most have been using it. They'll need my teacher email when they first login: sfernandez@st-martins.essex.sch.uk and then this will take them to student login. Their username is their usual 4 digit school email and lexia is the password (unless they changed it last year). They will be asked to complete a baseline assessment and then the work will be catered to their individual learning needs. The current Year 7 cohort are currently being uploaded and will be able to login by Monday 1 October. This is a great resource so please encourage your children to use it.

All students in receipt of FSM are able to claim both breakfast and lunch each day and all students are able to access free porridge in the morning. It is so important to ensure students

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are eating breakfast every day. A recent study at Leeds University found that: "Children who rarely eat breakfast on school days score nearly two grades lower at GCSE than those who eat breakfast frequently." Breakfast is available from 8am. Please be aware that any money for FSM will not show on students' ParentPay account as this comes direct from the school's budget. They will have £2 in the morning which can be spent at breakfast or break and then £2.40 is added at lunchtime. Money not spent during the school day will not 'roll-over' to the next day but will be returned to the budget.

Should you feel that there are any specific barriers to your child's education please feel free to contact me to discuss how we may be able to help you address these. Individual requests from parents should be directed to me in writing, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The best method of contact is via email at: PP@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Whilst I am happy to receive requests, the final decision on how the budget is spent rests ultimately with the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Fernandez

Lead Practitioner English and Pupil Premium Co-ordinator