



29 September 2020

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 way in which the school plans to spend the Pupil Premium funding. You may have heard of the recent government budget cuts to schools. With this in mind we have chosen, where possible, to protect our average class sizes of 24; we feel it is imperative to the development of our students to keep class sizes down and therefore a significant part of the funding will be used in order to ensure this is maintained. Extra support will also continue with tutoring across all year groups for students who have been identified as needing it the most. Teachers completing the tuition will contact you directly to organise.

Any individual requests from parents will still be considered and should be directed in writing to me. The best method of contact is via email at: [PP@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:PP@st-martins.essex.sch.uk) All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Examples of areas in which funding has been spent during the academic year 2019-20:

- 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.
- 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.

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 as it is important to ensure students

*Be The Best You Can Be*

are eating breakfast everyday. 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 accounts as this comes direct from the school’s budget. They will have £2.70 added each day but this does not ‘roll over’. Any money not spent will return to the PP budget.

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  
***Pupil Premium Co-ordinator***