

2 December 2011

## Letter to All Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

In this period of recession, the government is encouraging lower income families to register their children for free school meals (potentially saving you £350 a year), and, in addition, to help them achieve their very best, is giving additional money to Schools. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium' and is currently £488 per annum per eligible pupil.

At Deer Park, we are using this money to raise aspirations and support learning and achievement within this key group of learners. For example, we have recently appointed specialist Maths and English tutors who are now providing one to one tuition and small group support for pupils of all abilities. Similarly, we are developing our provision within our Coaching and Inclusion Centres and have opened up opportunities for pupils from lower income families to participate in enrichment activities by providing subsidised places. Most recently these have included our cross curricular Comenius trip to Alfrink College in The Netherlands in October 2011 for pupils in Year 9 and a First Edition Science Challenge in Cheltenham in November 2011 for pupils in Year 10. Since 2005 we have subsidised Enrichment Week activities for pupils registered for free school meals by 50%, and subject to funding we are planning to increase the breadth of our curriculum by reinstating our applied learning courses in partnership with other schools in Key Stage 4 from June 2012.

### **You can register your child for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:**

- **Income Support (IS)**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSAIB)**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)**
- **Support for Asylum Seekers (AS)**
- **Guaranteed Pension Credit (GPC)**
- **Child Tax Credit (CTC)**, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

Pupils registered for Free School Meals at Deer Park use the same smart card as other pupils and therefore can purchase food in school discretely.

**If you are eligible, I would encourage you to register your child by 31 December 2011, even if you do not wish him/her to have a meal in School**, to ensure he/she and other pupils in the School can benefit from the additional resource available to the School. **If you think you qualify, or require further information, please contact Allison Boucher, Head's PA at the School for an application form and help with applying. Further information can also be found at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)** where you can also download an application form.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Allison Boucher at the School.

Yours sincerely

Chiquita Henson  
Headteacher