



## Free School Meals and Hardship fund applications update – 30.3.2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wish to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for the kind responses that we have received following our mail out of over 500 Asda vouchers to those students who are eligible for free school meals. It is reassuring to know that the work the college is doing to alleviate additional pressures on families at this challenging time is being received so positively by parents/carers.

In the time since my letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the government has advised that they expect to have a new national scheme to support families eligible for Free School Meals up and running soon. Although it is unconfirmed, it appears that there is an intention to issue vouchers directly to families. However, this will not be operational for a few weeks yet.

As you are aware the College has provided families with a monetary voucher for students who are eligible for a free school meal to cover the period up to and including Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

For the time period from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April until the introduction of the Government's National Voucher Scheme, Manchester City Council have arranged their own voucher scheme that parents can now apply for. As a college we have signed up to this scheme as we feel it is the securest way of ensuring sustainable financial support for eligible families. The scheme will also provide money for Free School Meals throughout the Easter Holidays.

Manchester City Council have provided us with the information below that outlines the voucher scheme and how to apply.

### **Help with food costs while schools are closed**

We want to ensure that all our children and young people have access to a lunchtime meal.

We have the following arrangements in place to support families during this period:-

- Free School Meal pupils - link to Council's Voucher Scheme.
- Hardship support to families



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Flagship Learning Trust is registered in England as a company limited by guarantee number 11683714.

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# Wright Robinson College

## Please read this information carefully

If your school is not providing support and you normally receive free school meals due to low income please make a claim for support. Wright Robinson College has informed the City council that all eligible students have been issued with a voucher from the college up until and inclusive of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. Families, can then claim for support following this date.

The contribution towards a lunchtime meal is £2.00 per day (£10 per week) for each school child or young person in the household.

Manchester City Council will be able to pay this money within a few days by the following methods;

- A bank transfer into a nominated bank account
- A secure text message that can be used to access cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city
- A voucher that can be printed and can then be exchanged for cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city.

Parents can make an application, please submit a request via the Council's welfare Provision Scheme.

[MCC On-line Application FSM Voucher](#)

### To support to families facing hardship

As schools have closed and some families are facing additional financial challenges due to the Covid 19 virus, we want to provide support to families, who most need it.

We are providing a financial grant to parents and carers of the following groups of children and young people.

To qualify the family must be:

- **A Manchester resident** or supported by our Homelessness Service; and
- A family that has been hardest hit by the recent issues and may be waiting for benefits to be assessed or have a gap in their income due to a family member being 'laid off' from work etc.

The contribution towards a lunchtime meal is £2.00 per day (£10 per week) for each school age child or young person in the household.

We will be able to pay this money within a few days by the following methods

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## Wright Robinson College

- A voucher that can be printed and can then be exchanged for cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city.

To make an application, families need to submit a request via the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme

[MCC Apply for cash grant if you are in financial crisis](#)

Should any family experience difficulty in accessing the scheme please email the college at [meals4closure@wrightrobinson.co.uk](mailto:meals4closure@wrightrobinson.co.uk)

I appreciate that these are unprecedented times and I once again thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Haworth', is written below the text 'Yours faithfully'.

Mr M Haworth  
Head Teacher