



# Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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## National Voucher Scheme for free school meals

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government have announced a National Voucher Scheme to provide support for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Where schools are open for children of key workers and vulnerable children, schools will continue to provide meals for pupils in attendance.

The free school meal vouchers are for **term time only** and are fully funded centrally, by the government. We have been informed how we should manage the scheme by the DfE's voucher supplier Edenred. We already have a list of pupils eligible and currently in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. Vouchers will be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for that child.

**Each eligible pupil currently not attending school will receive a weekly £15 voucher.** This will be **delivered by email each week** until further notice. Where a family has more than one child eligible, the funding will be combined into one voucher. Through your email address we will send an 'eCode' directly to the parent or carer of the eligible pupils(s). You will then be asked to choose an eGift voucher from a range of supermarkets including:

- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S

Once you have received your voucher, you will be able to redeem it in-store at the selected retailer by either:

- presenting the voucher on a smartphone or tablet
- presenting a paper copy of the voucher

Families are free to select the most **appropriate food and drink for your child**. When selecting products, we encourage families to **consider health and nutrition**; the [School Food Standards](#) may act as a useful guide.

**Vouchers should not be redeemed for any age-restricted items such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.**

If you do not currently have an email address, you can also nominate a family member to receive the code on your behalf.

If you feel that your child meets the eligibility criteria for free school meals but does not currently receive one, parents should email the school office to verify eligibility; the eligibility criteria can be found at [apply for free school meals](#).

We are very grateful for this support from the government in these difficult times. The scheme is new to all of us but please contact us via the office email if you have any questions on how this scheme will work. We expect the first vouchers to be sent to you by email by the end of this week, for this week, and the next will be in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Alex Pearson  
Executive Principal

