



# Sandbach High School

and Sixth Form College  
Our Academy, Our Future

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Eligibility for Pupil Premium (2016/2017)**

In 2011 the Government introduced Pupil Premium to help all children reach their full potential and to achieve higher academic grades at school. The funding is not necessarily given because a student is underachieving, but enables us to address the national trend that Pupil Premium students do not attain as highly as non-Pupil Premium students.

The Government regards schools; that are responsible for the outcomes of children; as being best placed to determine how this money is spent. We have chosen to spend the additional funding on a number of academic and pastoral intervention strategies, most recently the implementation of the STAR Reading Intervention, Accelerated Maths and Read and Write Gold programmes. Students and parents are also able to access the following:

- Financial support for compulsory curriculum based educational trips.
- A discount of 50% for music tuition taking place on the school premises and led by one of the peripatetic music teachers employed by the school. (Please note the level of support currently available is at the school's discretion and may differ from one academic year to the next, depending on the uptake and amount of total funding available.)
- Provision of equipment such as revision guides, calculators or technology supplies.
- Payment of lockers.

Further details of the way in which the school uses Pupil Premium can be found on our website.

## **Free School Meals and Ever6**

One of the criteria used to calculate this additional funding is the number of students at a school who receive Free School Meals (FSM) and who are in full time education up to and including Year 11. In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose daughters attend Sandbach High School fail to claim FSM, even though they are entitled to them. Without this additional funding the benefits your daughters can enjoy will be more limited. Not only that, our catering team provides an excellent range of healthy lunch options that are enjoyed daily by our students and your daughter may well be able to access these free of charge.

In order to claim FSM, a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance (not Contribution-Based JSA)
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

If you think that you are eligible to apply for FSM for your child, or if you are not sure, you may want to contact the Cheshire East Free School Meals Helpline on **0300 123 5012**. A member of their team will be able to advise you. When calling, it will help if you have your National Insurance number to hand. In this way, you will be able to register for Free School Meals immediately should you be eligible to do so.

Eligibility for Pupil Premium also includes students known to have been in receipt of Free School Meals in any of the previous six years. This historical eligibility will be determined centrally by the DfE using the National Pupil Database (NPD) and communicated to schools.

### **Students Adopted From Care or Who Left Care under a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangements Order**

In addition, eligibility for Pupil Premium includes those students who were Looked After immediately before being adopted or being placed on a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangements Order (previously known as a Residence Order). **It will be for those who have parental responsibility (adoptive parents and carers of former Looked After Children on Special Guardianship or Child Arrangements Orders) to decide if they wish to self-declare their children's status to schools.** Parents or carers are requested to provide supporting evidence, for example, a photocopy of the adoption order. Parents may conceal sensitive information (e.g. the name of the birth parents) if they wish.

### **Looked After Children**

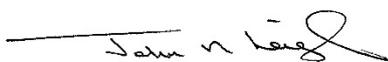
Children in the care of the Local Authority are entitled to Pupil Premium. This element of funding is paid directly to the Virtual School run by the Local Authority. Under the terms of the current agreement, a proportion of this funding is subsequently passed to the school on provision that criteria relating to a child's Personal Education Plan is being met.

### **Service Children**

Children whose parent(s) are Service personnel serving in regular HM Forces military, exercising parental care and responsibility, and designated as Personnel Category 1 or 2 are entitled to Pupil Premium, although at a lower rate. The DfE will use the information already available via National Pupil Database and Ministry of Defence child pension data to determine the actual numbers of students eligible for the Service Child Premium, which will be communicated to school.

Finally, if you are concerned that we have not received confirmation of your daughter's eligibility for Pupil Premium under any of the categories listed above, please contact Miss C Smith at school or by email at [csmith@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:csmith@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely



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