



# Ripon Grammar School

15 June 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians

## Changes to the provision of Free School Meals from September 2026

The provision of free school meals is changing and expanding from September 2026. The Department for Education is extending entitlement to free school meals to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, including those in households with earnings after tax exceeding the old threshold of £7,400. This letter is intended to explain these changes.

### Understanding the different categories of Free School Meals

From September 2026 there will be 2 categories of eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM):

#### Targeted FSM

This will cover children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children will attract Pupil Premium (PP) and other disadvantage funding for their schools. These children will be eligible for PP support in school, such as support with the cost of educational visits. Other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (known in North Yorkshire as FEAST) will be based on those receiving **Targeted FSM**

#### Expanded FSM

Will cover children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings over £7,400. These children will not attract PP funding for their school.

### What will eligibility be based on?

Eligibility will be based on whether you are in receipt of any of the benefits below:

- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of Pension Credit

### Who needs to apply?

Families who are **NOT** currently registered with North Yorkshire **NEED TO APPLY** to receive the meals. Applications should be made through the North Yorkshire Council website at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) **with immediate effect** to ensure that your child receives Free School Meals from September 2026. If your application is successful, NYC will inform us and we will update our management information system to ensure your child receives a Free School Meal from the beginning of the Autumn Term 2026.

*Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555*

**Headmaster:** Mr Jonathan M Webb, MA

**Address:** Clothholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG

**Tel:** [01765] 602647 **Email:** [admin@ripongrammar.com](mailto:admin@ripongrammar.com)

**Website:** [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)



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Families who **ARE** currently registered as being in receipt of free school meals through North Yorkshire Council, **DO NOT NEED TO REAPPLY**, as your child's eligibility to continue receiving this provision will be automatically reassessed before September 2026.

Families moving to a school located outside of North Yorkshire **WILL NEED TO APPLY** for this provision through their new authority.

## **The end of previous protections to those in receipt of free school meals**

Please note that the provision of free school meals for eligible children used to be protected even when household incomes rose above the required threshold. This protection of free school meals will no longer apply. Families will be notified by North Yorkshire if they are no longer eligible.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Webb**  
**Headmaster**

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**Address:** Clothholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG  
**Tel:** [01765] 602647 **Email:** [admin@ripongrammar.com](mailto:admin@ripongrammar.com)  
**Website:** [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)