

YSGOL BRYN ALYN

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22nd December 2022

Dear families,

I am writing to you regarding **FREE school meals** and to urge you to check if you are **eligible**. When it comes to the cost of living, making sure you claim all the financial help and support you are entitled to can make a huge difference. If your child currently receives free school meals under a transitional protection scheme, I would encourage you to visit the link below and check eligibility again as you may be missing out on some additional funding that is available.

If you are eligible, each child will receive over **£450 per year** on their school food account. In addition to this, there is further financial support available to cover other costs associated with education such as, uniform, music lessons, curriculum resources, revision materials and trips. At Ysgol Bryn Alyn 36% of our students receive free school meals. It is estimated that 14% of those eligible for free school meals have not applied and therefore do not receive this provision.

To check if you are eligible please follow this link [Free school meals | Wrexham County Borough Council](#). Only one parent needs to meet the criteria for receipt.

I have put together some frequently asked questions that you may find useful.

How much does each child get as an allowance per day?

Each day you child will be able to spend up to £2.45 as their free allowance, their account will be credited daily. They pay for their food using their finger print at the till.

What can they spend this allowance on?

Students can spend this money on anything that is for sale in the canteen that day. Every day our catering team prepare a fresh, balanced, high quality, delicious offer that meets most dietary requirements and religious observance.

Will my child be able to get a full meal?

Every day our canteen has a meal deal which is within the daily allowance. It doesn't cover a drink so your child will need to bring a drink with them or a water bottle to access our water fountains that are available throughout school.

Can the money be split across break time and lunch?

Yes, it is up to the student how they spend the money as long as it doesn't exceed the daily allowance of £2.45. We do offer a **free breakfast club** for all students where they can get some toast and a drink in the morning, this opens at 8am.

What happens if my child is on a school trip?

The teacher will inform our catering team and your child will be able to order a packed lunch to take with them.



Does anybody know if my child receives free school meals?

The school has a record of students that receive free school meals. These records are not shared with other students. The cash less payment system we use at school ensures payment is discrete and is made via the students finger print. Currently, 246 students receive free school meals at Ysgol Bryn Alyn.

Can I top up my child's account?

Yes, if you would like your child to be able to spend more than £2.45 per day you can put additional money in their account via parent pay.

If my child doesn't spend the money does it build up?

Students have to spend the free school meal allowance they have for that day on the day. They can't let this build-up; any unspent free school meal funds do not carry over. If you have topped up the account with your own money and not spent all of this it will remain.

How long will they get free school meals for?

Students will receive Free school meals until the end of their current school phase. i.e end of year 11.

Do I need to apply every year for free school meals?

No, once you have applied the eligibility remains even if your circumstances change. However, if your circumstances do change you will need to inform the local authority.

Do I need to apply for each child?

Yes, you will need to apply for each child. Once you have created an account your details are saved so additional applications are quicker and easier.

Only one parent meets the criteria, will my child still receive free school meals?

Only one parent needs to meet the criteria in order to receive this provision. However, if a couple are living together and have a joint benefit claim both earnings would be taken into consideration.

Does my child have to live with the parent to get free school meals?

No, the child can live with either parent and still receive free school meals.

My child doesn't live in Wrexham but goes to school in Wrexham does this matter?

No, all applications should be made to the county in which your child goes to school.

How do I apply?

Visit the link [Free school meals | Wrexham County Borough Council](#), it will take you to the Wrexham Council website where you can submit your application.

If you need any assistance or support completing this please do not hesitate to contact us via our school reception email mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk as we are happy to help with applications.

Regards,

Mrs K Cottrell
Assistant Head teacher

