



DINNINGTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
2011

Issue 18

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ALLOWANCE

What is it?

This is an allowance of £2.00 per day which can be spent in the school canteen. It is aimed at families on a lower income with children in Year 7 to Year 13.

What can it be spent on?

Despite being called Free School Meals it doesn't mean that you have to buy a whole meal. It can be used to buy any items available in the canteen. Here are a few examples of how it can be spent:-

- A meal including main course, dessert and drink
- Drinks – hot chocolate, tea, coffee, milk, flavoured water
- Breakfast – cereals, porridge, bacon bap, toast
- Desserts – puddings, fruit pots, yoghurts, tray bake
- Snacks – pizza, pasta, crumpet, tea-cake, sandwiches

This isn't all that we sell. A full price list is available on application.

Does all of the allowance have to be spent on the same day?

No, you can spend up to £2.00 per day. However any unspent allowance isn't rolled forward to the next day.

Does the allowance have to be used at lunchtime?

No, it can be used at any of the three services, 8am to 8.20am, 11am to 11.20am and 12.20pm to 12.50pm. Although students need to take care not to spend it all in the morning leaving no allowance for lunchtime.

Can a student on free school meals access more than £2.00 worth of food per day?

Yes, they can but the difference would have to be paid at the tills.

Will other students know that the student is receiving free school meals?

Other students will not know, unless the student chooses to tell them, as all purchases are handled in the same way.

How to apply for Free School Meal Allowance?

Applications should be made to Rotherham Borough Council (Tel: 01709 336065) and not to the school. Dinnington Comprehensive School does not decide who is granted free school meals. The Housing and Council Tax Benefits Section will tell you and the school of the outcome of your application. Students who have been granted Free School Meals will be entitled to reductions on the price of some of extra - curricular trips the school organises.

MEDICAL ROOM

Please be aware that the Medical Room is run by Administrative staff who are able to administer first aid in school. They are not to be confused with fully qualified medical staff or nurses. They cannot diagnose or offer advice. If parents have any medical issues, they should consult with their own GP.

STUDENTS WITH TEMPORARY OR LONG TERM DISABILITIES AFFECTING MOVEMENT

Would parents/carers inform your child's House Pastoral Team as soon as possible so that school can draw up a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan for your child. This includes things like broken/sprained limbs.

Doe Quarry Lane
Dinnington
Sheffield
S25 2NZ

Phone: 01909 550066

Fax: 01909 550170

Email: info@dcsch.co.uk

(please check with reception for personal email addresses of staff)

DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Heads of House

Hatfield: Mr. G. Platt ext 498

Osborne: Mr. M. Lovett ext 447

Segrave: Miss G. Pickles ext 432

Athorpe: Mrs H. Butler ext 444

Assistant Head of House

Hatfield: Mrs Mangham 559535

Mrs Roberts 559558

Osborne: Mrs McFarlane 559532

Mrs Kirkham 559546

Segrave: Mrs Henderson 559539

Mrs Sell 559531

Athorpe: Mrs Jones 559545

NEW RECEPTION TIMES AFTER HALF TERM

Please note that after October half term, from Monday 31st October, reception hours will be extended on Monday-Thursday, as follows:

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
8.00 am to 4.30 pm

Friday
8.00 am to 3.30 pm

REMINDER:

Parents "Drop In" on Wednesdays after school, 3.30 - 4.30 pm, where parents can call into school, without an appointment, to discuss any issues or have a chat with a member of the Senior Leadership Team on duty.





A new careers library will be available to all students to use from all year groups in a few weeks' time.



The library will be located in the Osborne canteen area and will be open at lunch times (days to be announced). Staff will be available in the library to give careers guidance for all students and advice for Y11s completing ApplyRotherham online applications for 6th form, college or apprenticeships.

Resources available in the careers library will be; 3 computer points for students to research careers along with career books, university guides, armed forces guides and a small seating area.

Resources will not however be allowed out of the library.

For further information contact Mrs Addy or Mrs Rigby.

CANADA TOUR UPDATE A BIG THANK YOU

On Saturday 10th September, the Canada Tour party and a number of parent and student volunteers opened up the DCS Carwash outside the Butcher's Arms in Woodsetts. Over the course of the day, students washed some 150 cars and raised an amazing £724 towards the tour total. A massive thanks to all those who trusted their cars with us and particularly to the students themselves for working so hard to do a good job!!

SIXTH FORM INITIATIVES

Some new initiatives have been started in the 6th Form as part of their enrichment programme, one such example is the Student Ambassadors, who will be assisting at Parent and Open Evenings and other school events where they may be needed, such as Y6 transition. (They will be recognisable in their new 'Student Ambassador' t-shirts!)

We are also hoping for the 6th Form students to have more interaction with students in Y7 - 11, with our Literacy Taskforce and Peer Mentoring Scheme. They will be providing support and assistance across the year groups.

SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG)

Want to know if your child gained achievement points today?

The SLG is a great way to gain 'real time' access to information about your child. You can login to the SLG on any computer with internet access (anywhere in the world) and see a range of information about them, ie. attendance, achievement, behaviour and attainment.

In addition other key information is available about the school, e.g. key dates, messages and useful documents.

If you have not yet applied for your login and password details then please e-mail SLGaccess@dcsch.co.uk and request them.

ATTENDANCE - SUCCESS

The Attendance Team are pleased to report the highest overall attendance level ever achieved for the first week of a new school term.

We will continue to monitor attendance closely as past data shows that students reaching their full potential have good levels of attendance.

We will also contact home and offer support to any students whose attendance falls below 85%.

J Murphy (Assistant Head Teacher)
S Bloor (Attendance Officer/Student Welfare)
D Caunt (Attendance Improvement Officer)

Students wishing to do further Psychological study on PSYA 2 are very welcome to attend the additional lessons offered in GY3 on a Monday night, 3.15-3.45pm.

Please see Ms. Grasmeder for details.

ANIMATION CLUB

If you are interested in animation, then why not join the club?

Tuesdays after school
3.30 - 4.30 pm - ME2

We would like to congratulate the students who have achieved their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards recently. They have done brilliantly. The Gold group, canoed down the Caledonian Canal!

