



Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Founded in 1554

Headteacher: Mr J M Keulemans BSc (Hons) NPQH

Chatburn Road, Clitheroe, BB7 2BA 01200 423379 mainschool@crgs.org.uk www.crgs.org.uk

July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Free School Meals eligibility from September 2026

We are writing to all parents and carers of students in Years 7–11 regarding changes to Free School Meals eligibility from September 2026.

From the start of the 2026–27 academic year, the Department for Education has confirmed that Free School Meals will be expanded to include all children from households receiving Universal Credit. This means that some families who have not previously been eligible may now be able to apply.

It is important that families check their eligibility and apply, even if their child has previously received Free School Meals. Eligibility will need to be checked regularly and, where required, applications will need to be made again each year. If your circumstances change at any point, and you think you may now be eligible, please apply.

There will now be two categories of Free School Meals:

Targeted Free School Meals

This is the existing category. It applies to families who meet the current benefits-based criteria, including households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. Students in this category receive Free School Meals, and the school may also receive additional funding such as pupil premium to support eligible students.

Expanded Free School Meals

This is the new category from September 2026. It applies to children in households receiving Universal Credit who do not meet the criteria for Targeted Free School Meals because household earnings are above the £7,400 threshold. Students in this category will be entitled to a free meal, but this category is for meals only and does not attract pupil premium funding.

To check eligibility and apply, please visit the Lancashire County Council Free School Meals page:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

Please scroll down to “**Year 3 and above and secondary**” and click the link to check whether you are eligible and to apply.

To help us plan our catering provision for September, we would also be grateful if you could complete a short school form if:

- your household receives Universal Credit;
- your child currently takes a school meal, whether paid or free; and/or
- your child intends to have a Free School Meal from September 2026.

The form can be completed here:

[Intention to take up a free school meal](#)

Chairman of Governors: Dr A D Clayton BSc PhD CEng MChemE

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School is an Exempt Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee Registration Number 7461173



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This information will help us to gauge likely numbers and ensure that we are prepared for the increase in students who may wish to take a school meal from September.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

Miss Renold

Deputy Headteacher: Head of Main School

Chairman of Governors: Dr A D Clayton BSc PhD CEng MChemE

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