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## THE PUPIL PREMIUM

**September 2018**

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that the government is currently allocating additional funding to schools in the form of The Pupil Premium. There are various circumstances which can attract Pupil Premium funding:

- Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)
- Children who have claimed FSM in the past 6 years (Ever 6 FSM)
- Children of current Regular Armed Services Personnel (Ever 6 Service Child)
- Children designated as 'Looked After' (LAC)  
*Looked After Children are children in the care of the Council, through a Care Order made by a court or voluntary agreement with their parent(s) to accommodate them. They may be looked after in a children's home, by foster carers, or other family members. All unaccompanied asylum seeking children are also Looked After Children.*

The rationale behind the Pupil Premium funding is that historically, these groups of children have under-performed throughout their school careers, across the country. That is not to say that any individual will inevitably under-perform but the statistics e.g. for those achieving 5+ 9-4 grades on the recently revised grading system for GCSEs or accessing higher education are quite stark. The government has therefore decided to target money directly through schools to see what can be done. This has given schools the opportunity to use the money in whatever way they think is most appropriate for their students.

Using the example of FSM, in common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend AGS fail to claim FSM, even though they are entitled to them.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSM (£935 per student), I am writing to all parents to ask if they believe they may be entitled to claim FSM for their children and do not already do so, to make a claim.

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

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Child Tax Credit except if you meet **ANY** of the following criteria:
  - Entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income)*
  - Have an annual income in excess of £16,190 (please note this figure is for April 2018 and that it changes in April each year)*
- The Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you think you may qualify please do complete and return the attached application form or if you require further advice and clarification do contact Mrs Sandra Skeggs, Finance & Business Manager [sskeggs@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:sskeggs@ags.bucks.sch.uk) who will be able to assist you. The process is completely confidential and, for example, our cashless catering system handles the payment for school meals without anyone being aware of who is getting a free meal and who is paying.

Kind regards,  
Glen.

**Mr G Dallas**  
Assistant Head Teacher