

MAYOR OF LONDON

05 March 2024

Dear Headteacher,

Thank you once again for all the hard work that has gone in to delivering the Mayor's expansion of Universal Free School Meals this term.

Please see below details of additional funding for meal uptake over 90%, the independent evaluation schools survey, further support for schools and Jamie Oliver's Good Food Awards.

Take-Up over 90%

Schools that are claiming additional funding for take-up over 90% are asked to provide a snapshot of data on school meals uptake at two points in 2024, via a form which is in the online guidance here: [Claiming additional funding for meals uptake above 90 per cent | London City Hall](#)

A reminder that the date for the snapshot is coming up on the **13 March 2024**. If this date is not suitable, please inform your local authority about an alternative date that is as close to the 13 March as possible.

Independent Evaluation Schools Survey

ICF Research are running a survey for schools to capture how they are experiencing implementation of the expansion of the Universal Free School Meal scheme, what their barriers are, and if there are any challenges scaling up. All schools in London were sent a letter through the post in mid-January.

To ensure that we receive the most comprehensive picture of the London school food context, we would really value as many responses as possible. **Respondents will be entered into a prize draw for one of five £100 Decathlon vouchers.**

The survey can be found here: <https://icfeurope.com/London-school-meals-feedback>

Support for Schools

We continue to do as much as we can to support schools with the rollout of free school meals. As part of this we have been sharing a range of resources, including examples of best practice, templates, FAQ sheets, and communications packs on our school's hub which can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/priorities-london/free-school-meals/guidance-and-support-schools>.

If there are other resources that you think would be helpful, including webinar topics or resources for your schools, please let us know here: <https://forms.office.com/e/3BTQVPBvRx>

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Good School Food Awards

The Jamie Oliver Good School Food Awards celebrate the amazing catering teams, and unsung heroes who, day in and day out, go the extra mile to make sure Britain's schoolchildren are well nourished. I am delighted to share a personal note from Jamie with you which outlines the awards in more detail.

Hello brilliant London primary schools,

Jamie Oliver here. Do you have a food hero at your school going above and beyond to make sure children are well fed? Or perhaps it's you, working miracles to ensure young minds are given the fuel they need to succeed. If so, I want to hear about it.

*Please [nominate or apply](#) for my Good School Food Awards TODAY! Our incredible expert panel and celebrity judges are ready and waiting to start selecting the stars of this year's awards, and we would love to see **what's happening in London**.*

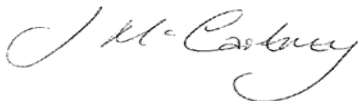
There are [8 categories](#) to choose from, including Food Educator of the Year, Governor or School Leader Food Hero and Catering Team Champions. So what are you waiting for?! Check out all the categories, and nominate [here](#).

*Big love,
Jamie O x*

I hope the rest of the term goes well and wish you a restful Easter break when it arrives.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do send them to freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,



Joanne McCartney AM
Deputy Mayor for Children and Families