

MAYOR OF LONDON

13 June 2024

Dear Headteacher,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful half term break.

Looking ahead I am excited to be working alongside the Mayor to make free school meals permanent for all state primary school children in London.

I am writing to provide you with an update on next year's programme and further support available for schools.

UFSM 2024-25

It is with great pleasure that I can confirm that the funding for 2024-25 has been confirmed. We are working hard with your boroughs to support you with a smooth transition into delivery of UFSM for the next academic year. Funding will continue to be issued to you via your local authority. Final allocation details will be shared with your local authority once this year's census data on pupil numbers has been published by DFE.

Funding for 2024/25 will see boroughs offered £3 per meal to help continue to deliver the meals from September, a 13% increase on funding from last year to account for food inflation next year. Borough allocations will be calculated by multiplying this by the number of pupils, the number of school days (190) and an assumed uptake rate of 90%. In line with the first year of the programme, additional provision will be made for schools that can evidence uptake that exceeds 90% uptake.

Support for you

I am delighted to confirm that we will be restarting our webinar series, providing you and your school with examples of best practice, on topics such as increasing meal uptake, sustainability and food quality.

This first webinar will take place on Thursday 27 June at 2:00pm and will include a specialist talks from experts about how to create healthy and sustainable school meals focusing on nutritional content and food quality.

You can sign up following this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gla-ufsm-good-practice-webinar-nutritional-content-and-food-quality-tickets-924288601087?aff=oddtcreator>. Please do share this with your team and anyone that you feel would be interested. The session will be recorded and uploaded to our online resource hub for those who are unable to attend.

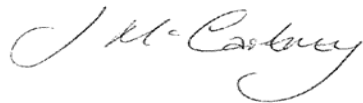
We continue to do as much as possible to support schools. As part of this we will continue to share examples of best practice, templates, FAQ sheets, communications packs on our school's hub which can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/priorities-london/free-school-meals/guidance-and-support-schools>.

MAYOR OF LONDON

If there is any further support you or your team would find helpful, or if you have any queries, please do send them to freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Ahead of the summer holidays I will write to you again to provide a further update on next year's programme, as well as some more information on the Mayor's holiday hunger programme which may be useful for families in your community.

Yours sincerely,



Joanne McCartney AM
Deputy Mayor for Children and Families