

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Free School Meals Options

You may have seen news of the national free school meals voucher scheme that has been launched this week. This scheme – which is intended to operate whilst schools and colleges are closed due to Coronavirus – allows schools and colleges to issue eligible families with an ‘eCode’ by email.

Parents/carers can then go online to redeem the eCode against a choice of eGift cards to the value of £15 each week, per eligible child, that can be used at:

- Asda
- M&S food
- Morrisons
- Sainsbury’s
- Tesco
- Waitrose

The Government is working to get additional supermarkets added to the list. Vouchers can be redeemed instore by presenting the voucher on a smartphone or tablet or alternatively presenting a paper copy of the voucher. Please note that these vouchers cannot be redeemed for tobacco, alcohol or lottery tickets.

Wootton Academy Trust has decided, having received positive feedback from parents and pupils that received the food parcels last Friday, that it will continue to work with its catering provider, *Taylor Shaw*, to provide fortnightly food parcels.

However, there may be some households that would prefer to have a choice over the most appropriate food and drink for their child, something that the Trust cannot offer when providing food parcels.

In order to finalise ordering for next week’s food parcels we would be grateful if you could indicate your preference between:

- in-house fortnightly food parcel; or
- weekly voucher

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By emailing [dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dataoffice@wootton.beds.sch.uk) with:

1. eligible pupil name(s):
2. preferred option either:
  - food parcel
  - voucher
3. if appropriate, an email address for eCode to be sent to, if different to the one you respond on.

Please can you respond with your preference **by midnight on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** so that the responses can be collated over the weekend. This will allow *Taylor Shaw* to order sufficient produce for the food parcels to be ready for next Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April. It will also allow us to register those that would prefer to move to the voucher scheme so that emails are sent out by next Thursday too. If you do not respond by tomorrow night we will only be able to offer you access to the voucher scheme for the two weeks, beginning Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**We have already warned parents of the email scam targeting parents by stating the following:**

*'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.*

We can confirm that if you receive such an email it is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents/carers that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S McMenemy  
Finance Lead