TAME RIVER EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Great schools in which to learn, teach and belong.

June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important: Changes to Free School Meals – Please Check Your Eligibility

We are writing to inform you of important changes to free school meals (FSM) that will take effect from September 2026. To ensure your child(ren) can access free school meals from the start of the new academic year, it is important that you act now.

What has changed?

From September, all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals. If you receive Universal Credit, your child is now likely to be eligible—even if you did not qualify before.

Please note: Previous protections have ended, which means some families who were previously eligible may no longer qualify.

You must apply

All families **must submit a new application**, including those who have previously received free school meals, as eligibility will no longer carry forward.

If you do not complete a new application before September 2026, **your child will not receive free school meals**, even if they currently receive them.

Please note: **A separate application must be submitted for each child** in your family.

Why this matters

Applying for free school meals:

- Ensures your child receives free meals at school
- Helps secure additional funding for the school to support pupils

What you need to do now

- If you receive Universal Credit or think you may be eligible, please apply
- If your circumstances have changed, check your eligibility
- Complete your application as soon as possible to ensure meals are in place for September
- Apply here: FMS Checker
- If you need help applying, please contact the school office

We strongly encourage all families to check eligibility, as many more children will now qualify.

Yours sincerely

Ms G Arnold
Headteacher