

Ref PLE/SYS FL debt
Thursday 24th January 2019



ACADEMY
LANGLEY

Family Lunch Debts

Dear Parent/Carer,

Family Lunch is something that is unique to Q3 Academy Langley – it ensures that all children get a hot, filling meal, that they are safe and secure at lunch-times, and have an opportunity to speak to staff and their peers on a daily basis. However, Family Lunch does have a cost – if those costs are not being met by parents and carers, we as an Academy have to cover the cost in the immediate term. Family Lunch is no different in this respect to any other service – we must pay our contracted supplier and provider (Sodexo), and therefore require that payment come from all parents and carers; it is unfair on us, as an Academy, to have a situation where meals are being provided without being paid for.

Unfortunately, I have to write to inform **all parents and carers** that our total debts for the academic year are now approaching £7,000 – **seven thousand pounds**. This is not money that the Academy *should* owe Sodexo – it represents the Family Lunches that have not been paid for this year, by parents and carers. The Academy has an obligation to pay Sodexo. Simply put, this is an unacceptable situation, particularly when we readily offer support if families contact us; over the past few years have written off considerable debts in justifiable situations.

If circumstances have changed, or if you wish to explore the option of claiming a Free School Meal for your child, please visit this link: www.sandwell.gov.uk/forms/form/16/free_school_meals

As Family Lunch options are the same for all students, there is no stigma attached to having a free school meal – please contact the Academy if you need support accessing the link, or would like support in the application process. We understand that circumstances may change, affecting your capacity – please contact us if you are encountering difficulties, rather than allowing debts to spiral to worrying levels.

I urge all parents and carers to check that their Parent Pay account is in credit **tonight, as a matter of urgency**. If using Parent Pay to pay off a Family Lunch debt is an issue, we can accept cash, if it is handed in a clearly labelled envelope tomorrow morning.

We are extremely grateful to those who continually keep their account in credit, and to those who address arrears quickly. As ever, please contact the Academy with any issues.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Lee'.

Mr P Lee
Head of School

Chief Executive: Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH | Head of School: Mr Peter Lee M.Ed, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

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Q3 - Quaerere | 'Seek that which is good, that which is right, that which is true'

