

# MEALS SUPPORT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The college offers three meal support schemes. They are known as Free College Meals, 16-18 Learner Support Fund Meals Support Scheme and 16-18 Extended Bursary Meals Support.

Students receive an allowance of £4.50 per day from the date eligibility is confirmed, whilst physically attending one of our college sites (other rules apply).

## Free College Meals\*

- Students must be aged 16, 17 or 18 on 31st August 2025, or
- Aged between 19-24 on the 31st August 2025 and either subject to a 2025/26 Education Health Care Plan, or aged 19 and studying on the exact same programme they started before turning 19,
- Students must also be in receipt of, or living with parent(s) who are in receipt of, at least one of the following benefits or types of support:
  - Income Support
  - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
  - Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
  - Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
  - Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC)
  - Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
  - Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 for each year (after tax and not including any benefits received). Self-employed parent(s) must also provide a copy of their company registration form or tax return for 2024/25.
  - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you have previously received Free School Meals at any time since 01/04/2018 and you or your parents do not provide evidence that meets the FCM eligibility criteria, the college may, with your consent, write to Lincolnshire or Nottinghamshire County Council to see if you are eligible for what is known as Transitional Protection.

If you received Free College Meals in academic year 2024/25 at another FE funded institution you can also receive Transitional Protection if you provide a signed and dated letter on that institution's headed paper that clearly states that you received Free College Meals during academic year 2024/25.

## 16-18 Learner Support Fund Meals Support Scheme Eligibility Criteria\*

If you're aged 16-18 on 31st August 2025 and you are not eligible for Free College Meals, you may be eligible for our 16-18 Learner Support Fund Meals Support Scheme if your parent(s)/guardian(s) gross household income has been assessed as less than £45,000.

## 16-18 Extended Bursary Meals Support Scheme\*

If you are aged 16-18 on 31st August 2025 and you are not eligible for Free College Meals, you may be eligible for our 16-18 Extended Bursary Meals Support Scheme if you meet the eligibility criteria for the 16-18 Extended Bursary.

\*Other rules apply. Rules and criteria may be subject to amendment or deletion without prior notice.

