



10th September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the start of term. We hope you have all had a lovely summer break; it has been wonderful welcoming the students back.

Given the recent changes to the Free School Meal (FSM) funding as of 1st September 2026, we would like to take this opportunity to explain how FSM works at Exmouth Community College.

How can I apply for FSM or check if my child is still eligible?

You can check your child's eligibility and apply for free school meals online through the official [GOV.UK Free School Meals portal](https://www.gov.uk/free-school-meals).

If successful, this information will be provided to ECC directly from Devon County Council: you do not need to let the school know directly.

How will the canteen staff know that my child is entitled to FSM?

We are a cashless school; our students' biometric fingerprint reflects their FSM status. The system is discreet and all students pay in the same way.

What is my child's FSM allowance?

Students who are eligible for FSM receive a daily allowance of £3.15 to spend. The £3.15 allowance is added daily and can be used to purchase food and drinks from the college catering facilities, including snacks and drinks. Alternatively, a main hot meal costs £3.15 and includes a healthy main meal and a choice of dessert. The menu can be found on the school website.

What happens if my child does not spend their full daily allowance?

Any unused FSM allowance at the end of the day does not carry over to the following day. A new £3.15 allowance is available each school day.

Can I add funds to my child's account even if they are on FSM?

Yes. Families can add additional money to their child's account through MCAS. Any money added will remain on the account and will roll over if it is not spent.

If you would like to add additional funds through MCAS but would prefer a daily spending limit to be put in place for this money, please contact the college and we can arrange this for you.

There are no funds showing on my MCAS app for my FSM child – is this right?

Yes - the daily FSM allowance will not show in the MCAS app. Only money that you have added yourself will be visible.

Further information regarding the changes to FSM Funding can be found in the attachment from DCC.

We appreciate the funding has brought significant change, and this can be difficult. Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we have implemented these changes since returning to school on Monday.

If you have any further questions, please contact the school and we would be happy to assist.

Kind regards,

Sarah Lasker



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