



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

Rectory Road, London, E12 6JB

Tel. 020 8478 8024 | info@littleilford.org | www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk

Twitter: @littleilfordsch | Instagram: @littleilfordschool | Facebook: @OfficialLittleilfordSchool

27th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your support during this academic year. There have been so many highlights and achievements. We are now in the final weeks before exams start for our Year 11 students, and it is vital that they align with our vision:

- take ownership of our learning and aspirations so that we fulfil our unique potential;

All students at Little Ilford School are unique, and it is our mission to ensure they achieve their full potential wherever that lies.

A programme of intervention is taking place during the holiday for specific Year 11 students, and they have been informed of this. Could we request your support to ensure they attend.

Please see below information that will be useful for you over the next few weeks.

Cost of living support:

Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Family Hub Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

You don't have to be a UK citizen to get support from your local CAB. You just need to be a resident of the local area. The CAB can help you with the following:

Getting benefits or organising other financial support

Accessing support for essential costs (food, bills, rent)

Visit the [Citizens Advice](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) website or contact your local branch to book an appointment.

Family Hub

Contact your local Family Hub to get help accessing all the support you might need as a family. [Find your local hub](#).

Check you're paying the right amount of tax:

Make sure you're on the correct tax code. If you aren't, you might be due a refund. Use the [Money Saving Expert's](#) free tax code calculator to find out.

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Claim any benefits you're entitled to:

Use one of these benefits calculators to determine whether there are any benefits you could be claiming:

[Turn2us](#)

[Policy in Practice](#)

[Support for migrant families](#) – use this calculator if you are a migrant family or if you have no recourse to public funds (meaning you're not entitled to the majority of welfare benefits)

You may be able to get benefits paid early if you need money urgently – this is known as 'a short-term benefit advance'. You will need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Check you've received all the government's cost-of-living payments:

The government's [cost-of-living payments](#) are available for those receiving certain benefits or tax credits. You don't need to apply for these – if you're eligible, the money should go straight into your account.

If you think you're due a payment but haven't received one, [report a missing payment](#) to the government.

Be aware of scams! If you receive any emails, texts or phone calls asking you to fill in an application form or asking for your bank details to receive a cost-of-living payment, do not talk to them or send a reply. Get more information on [cost-of-living scams](#) on the Money Saving Expert's website.

Find out what help you can get with your energy bills:

Take a look at these resources from the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) and the [Money Saving Expert](#).

Check if your child is entitled to free school meals (FSM):

If your child is eligible for FSM, you need to get them registered. This will allow them to get a free meal at school, and, as a school, we'll receive extra funding (known as the pupil premium) to support your child's learning.

Go to [this government website](#) to check if your child is eligible. If they are, or if you're not sure, please see what other support you can get from your local authority.

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Local authorities have many schemes that you might be eligible for, including:

[Help with transport to school](#)

[Help with school uniform costs](#)

Get free or low-cost food:

If you're worried about not having enough food to feed your family, you're not alone. There are a number of places offering support.

If you have a child under 4 and meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to [healthy start food vouchers](#)

Find your local food bank: [Bankuet](#), [The Independent Food Aid Network](#), the [Trussell Trust](#), or your local [community fridge](#)

Use food waste apps and websites like [Olio](#) (for free food and household items from your local community), [Too Good To Go](#) (for low-cost food from local restaurants), or [Low Price Foods](#) (food that has passed its best-before date but is still safe to eat)

Become a member of a community shop. These organisations sell food to their members at a reduced price. Some shops are free to join if you meet certain criteria, and others ask for a small contribution. Find out if there's one near you by checking these websites: [Community Shop](#), [Your Local Pantry](#), [Community Grocery](#)

Get more tips on free and cheap meals from [Which](#)

Replace or repair household items at a low cost or for free:

Check if you can get broken household goods replaced or repaired by your local community.

Get free household goods on [Freecycle](#)

Get help with DIY repairs at a [Repair Cafe](#)

Hardship Fund:

We recognise the additional challenges currently facing families, so I would like to draw your attention to our Hardship Fund. Little Ilford School Hardship Fund is aimed to help students who have financial difficulties in paying for things such as:

- All items related to school uniform/PE kit
- Materials or equipment needed to study (e.g. subject revision booklets)
- Emergency cost of travel or cost to attend work experience placement
- Educational visits organised by Little Ilford School

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If you would like to submit an application, please visit the school website for more details and use this [link](#) to access the application form.

Newham holiday activities:

Spring has sprung, Easter is nearly upon us, and here in Newham, we have produced an extensive programme of events and activities to keep our young people entertained and safe. This [brochure](#) contains information about all the free activities on offer, the dates, the venues and any eligibility criteria.

Newham's Easter Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme:

Welcome to Newham HAF's booking page, here you will find a collection of all the wonderful providers participating in the HAF Programme. Click on any listing to see more details and to book. You must be in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals to be eligible for this free programme. However there may be some paid places available with some providers.

Easter HAF is open for bookings now. [Newham HAF - Eegu](#)

Holiday food vouchers:

We are pleased to advise Newham Council has again decided to allocate funding from the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund to schools to provide food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for the February half term break. The Council has decided to issue a grant payment to all infant, junior, primary and secondary schools in Newham in line with the approach taken for previous school holidays. The funding will cover food voucher costs for children from Reception to Year 11 who are currently in receipt of statutory (benefits related) Free School Meals (FSM) to cover the Easter holiday period. In line with the approach taken from the previous vouchers the school issued, we will send £30 vouchers for the holidays through text and or email using Wonde. The vouchers will be sent out on the last day of term.

Thank you again for your continued support, and I look forward to welcoming staff and students back to school on Monday, 17th April, at 8:20am.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Finn
Headteacher

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