



# HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

February 2025

[www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk)

Issue 134

**Headteacher Editorial:** I would like to start off by wishing you a somewhat belated Happy New Year! I'd also like to acknowledge the disruption caused on the first day of term due to the adverse weather conditions. We do not issue a School Closure Notice often, however we felt compelled to make the decision early as the buses and food deliveries were unable to operate safely. This allowed staff the time to then plan their teaching day remotely which I understand was well received. Notwithstanding, thank you for your continued support.

As in previous editions, our most recent **Staying Safe @Heber** bulletin is enclosed and focuses on our Safer Internet Day (SID) on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February.



Safer Internet Day raises awareness annually of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people.

We continue to consult with our students every term to look at ways we can improve our school community even further. During the Autumn Term, several tutor groups suggested as part of the 'You Said, We Did' strategy that the school should develop an online form to report any concerns regarding student safety, wellbeing and bullying. This form is now on the school's website and can be found on the 'Safeguarding Page' (click [here](#)). Students can use this form to report any concern about themselves or another student in the school and it will automatically alert Ms Mort, Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead and Ms Vaughan, Inclusion Manager and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. They will share the concern with the appropriate member of staff, who will be in touch with the student reporting the concern, to plan any support and/or guidance. Please follow the link to the school's [website](#) for further support.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent research-led project completed in Year 12, allows students to investigate an area of their own choice and complete either a 5000-word dissertation or an artefact based on their findings. Worth half the UCAS points available for a full A-level, it is highly valued by many institutions and can result in lower grade offers from universities. Celebrations were held in January for 31



students in Year 13 who received their EPQ results. Almost 50% of students achieved a grade A\* or A, and 75% of those entered achieved a grade B or higher. The

huge variety of students' projects made for really interesting reading and ranged from artefacts including outfits showing the history of Japanese fashion and an original film score composition, to dissertations exploring whether adverse childhood experiences affect future criminality, and issues facing maternity care in sub-Saharan Africa.

If any Year 11 students are interested in learning more about the EPQ, they should speak to Mrs Budgen, EPQ Coordinator.

Following the resounding success of the school's production of 'We Will Rock You' in November and the Christmas Carol Concert in December, we move now on in 2025 to our first major performing event with **Heber Footlights**. This is our annual showcase of student-devised work in the form of vocal solos, small ensembles, dance and drama work. Students are busy preparing auditions as we go to press. Further details are on the poster enclosed and, of course, it has become something of a Heber tradition to announce our musical production for this November at the end of the Footlights show. Be one of the first to find out by booking your seat for Footlights for what promises to be a thoroughly entertaining evening with the grand reveal certain to generate rising temperatures and a rush for tickets!



We'd like to remind you that the Spring Term **Non-uniform Day** in aid of Red Nose Day is Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March. Our donations of £1 per person will allow the school to contribute over £1,300 to support RND.

As we approach the mid-point of the academic year, the Spring Term is traditionally one of the busiest in terms of the events we commit to such as: Parents' Evenings, Year 9 GCSE Options Evening, Sixth Form applications as well as the Year 11 and Sixth Form mock examinations. It has been great to see so many of you in person at Parents' Evenings in school. We value your feedback (click [here](#) or scan the QR code) and use the information provided to support our planning for the next academic year.



## Academic Year 2024-2025 (important dates)

### Spring Term 2025

24.02.25	<b>Students return to School (Week A)</b>
25.02.25	Year 10 GCSE English Mock Exam (Paper 1)
27.02.25	Year 11 Learning Conference
27.02.25	Year 11 GCSE Parents' Info. Eve (SPH 5.30 p.m.)
04.03.25	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg (7.15 p.m.)
06.03.25	Year 10 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
10.03.25	Science Fair (SPH 4 - 7 p.m.)
10.03.25	Careers & Discovery Week Years 9 & 12
18.03.25	Heber Footlights [KS3] (MSH 7 - 9.30 p.m.)
20.03.25	Year 8 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
21.03.25	Non-uniform Day (RND 2025)
24.03.25	Year 10 Exams
26.03.25	Lower Sixth 16+ Parents Info Eve (MSH 6 p.m.)
27.03.25	Y11 / Y13 Year Photographs (MSH 9 - 10.30 a.m.)
04.04.25	<b>End of Spring Term (12.30 p.m. finish)</b>

[Please visit our website for further information.](#)



Follow us on @BishopHeberHS / @Heber\_Head or for sports fixture/updates @HeberSport

## Ski Trip to the French Alps

During the second week of the Christmas holiday 46 students and five staff went on the Snow Tour to Alpe D'Huez in the French Alps. With the resort having had plenty of snow in the few days before our arrival, we had fantastic skiing conditions from day one combining glorious sunshine and very little wind!

For five days the student had five hours of lessons with their instructors and lots of people made fantastic progress enjoying the range of slopes from Marcel's Farm all the way through to La Sarenne, the longest black run in Europe! Students enjoyed a variety of difficulty level slopes, the snow park, and watching the New Years Eve ski display. In the evenings everyone enjoyed the Luge, quiz night and game night, and a visit to a creperie.

Thanks must go to all the staff who gave up their holidays and time with their families to provide the opportunity for so many students to have this fantastic experience.

**Mr R Martin – Teacher of P.E.**



## Year 9 History Trip

On Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 48 Year 9 students along with Mr Ashcroft, Mr Penlington, Miss Jones and Chair of Governors Mrs Anderson and Mr Bingle departed Heber at 7 a.m. for a history visit to Bletchley Park.

The day started with a guided tour of the site, where students discovered what life was like at the top secret site during the Second World War. There was so much more to life for the 10,000 people who were working there than just trying to crack the German Enigma machine. After the guided tour students explored the huts where the likes of Alan Turing and the codebreakers deciphered the Germany Navy messages to exactly pin point where every German U-boat and destroyer was in the Atlantic ocean. This was followed by a learning session where students were given information on how the Enigma Machine worked and how many different combinations it would take to break the German coded messages, without the creation of Colossus (the world's first computer). Every student also had an opportunity to have a go on a real life Enigma machine which was a true privilege as only 400 still exist in the world today. After lunch there was a quick session on how the work at Bletchley Park during the 1940s paved the way for the development of technology and computers in the future and how AI is evolving today.

Despite the unseasonal cold weather for February it was a fantastic day out and all the students represented the school and themselves excellently.

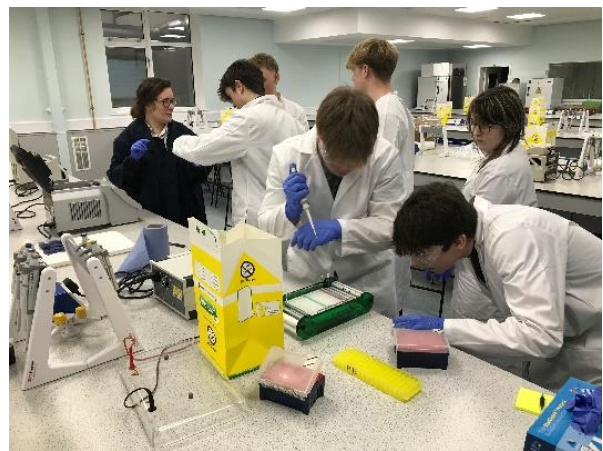
### Mr J Ashcroft – Teacher of History



## Year 12 A-level Biology Trip

On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 12 A-level Biology students visited the School of Life Sciences at Keele University. Dr David Hulse led the event and guided our students through the procedures involved in isolating and amplifying bacterial DNA using the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). They then carried out electrophoresis in order to visualise and analyse their samples. This was an invaluable opportunity for our students to experience working in a university laboratory and use specialist equipment to carry out techniques required for their A-level course.

### Mrs H Williams – Head of Biology





## Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is a national competition held each year for the best mathematicians from Year 9 to 11. This year, 14 Year 9s received a Bronze Award as did, 8 Year 10s and 12 Year 11s.

Only the top 16% of those entering receive Silver Award so the following students did incredibly well to earn Silver Award;

Year 10 - Ethan Kirk (10KCa), Charlotte Millington (10GLe), Luca Owen (10AWh) and Finlay Russell (10DUj).

Year 11 - Leo Atkinson (11MPa), Henry Craddock (11GFo), Matthew Roberts (11TRo) and Libby Taylor (11JGI).

Congratulations to the Gold winners (top 8% of those that enter) who are all invited to sit the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round in March.

Year 10 - Alexander Barrington-Crow (10RKy, best in school).

Year 11 - Felix Cao (11TRo), Theo Hughes (11GFo), Thomas Williams (11TRo) and Eddie Somerville-Cox (11RMa).

This year saw the welcome return on the Year 8/9 UKMT Mathematics Team Challenge after a five year hiatus following Covid. Jacob Magrath (8G&H), Rhiannon Inglis-McMahon (8YCa), Joseph Wakefield (9RWh) and Georgia Murphy (9AWn) travelled to

Birkenhead School to represent Bishop Heber and compete against 17 other schools from the region. They performed brilliantly, and though they didn't make the top three schools for awards, they were one of the highest state schools that competed. Well done team!

**Mr K Lowe – Teacher of Maths**



## Cady is a 'glass' act!

Cady Hodgson (13KWj) in Year 13 has been asked to exhibit her art work, alongside her chosen artist of study at the Stourbridge Glass Museum.

Cady has drawn inspiration from the work of Chris Day, developing her own interpretation that explores the dynamic relationship between glass and wire. Pieces were created at local E&M Glass Studio, where she collaborated with other glass artists and explored form, material and light.

Cady's work is rooted in the theme of 'connections', exploring the interplay between illusion and perception. One of her key explorations involved blowing molten glass directly into a wire cage, allowing the glass form to be dictated by the wire structure. The glass then expands through the wire in a striking fusion, creating an effect that captures both tension and fluidity.

Through this process, Cady has echoed elements of Day's approach, while developing a unique visual language that invites viewers to reflect on the interplay between containment and freedom in glassmaking.

Chris Day has invited Cady down to the museum to take part in a demonstration day in April. We are so proud of Cady and her dedication to her coursework, resulting in this brilliant opportunity.

**Mrs A Stoddart – Subject Leader of Art**



## Springboard Future Chef Cooking Competition

On Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November a Year 9 student, Joseph Wakefield won the Springboard Futurechef cooking competition in Manchester. He then went on to be mentored by The Executive Chef of the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester.

As part of the mentoring package Joseph visited the hotel's restaurant kitchen's, where he practised and perfected his dishes. Then on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February Joseph took part in the Spring board Futurechef regional finals at St Helen's college. After executing a superb menu, he sadly didn't win, despite being the youngest there, up against Year 10 and Year 11 students- all taking GCSE Food preparation and nutrition.

This is a quote from Mrs Wakefield, who accompanied Joseph to the competition. "It was a very close call by all accounts with two students tying initially. From what the chefs said, Joseph's main was phenomenal - one head chef said it was some of the best pasta dishes he'd ever tasted in his career. His pudding was solid but wasn't different enough for them. Listening to the individual feedback for the other four entrants, they all made quite big errors which makes us think that the tied place was Joseph and the eventual winner. Coupled with the fact that the five head chef judges all came to him to gush about his main, I think he did remarkably well"

### Mrs C Selwood – Teacher of Food Technology



## HAKKEI 'Crafting a sustainable future'

Young enterprise students in Year 12, have set up a business using re-purposed wood, in order to be environmentally friendly. Student are now actively selling their products see details below: Contact us via Instagram for any [enquiries@hakkeiboards](mailto:enquiries@hakkeiboards)

At Hakkei, we create beautifully handcrafted wooden chopping boards, coasters, and cheese boards that bring a touch of natural elegance to your home, from locally sourced oak from a local timber merchant. Each piece is designed for function and style, perfect for everyday use or special occasions.

Wooden Boards and cheeseboards: Available in small and larger sizes, crafted with premium recycled wood for durability

Coasters: Designed with style and practicality in mind, ideal for protecting surfaces with a modern yet rustic aesthetic.

Handcrafted with attention to detail. Durable and long-lasting designs. Perfect for gifting or personal use.

Price list:

Large chopping boards -£25

Small cheeseboard -£15

Coasters x5 -£10





'CRAFTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE'

**Mr B Lonergan – Subject Leader of Business Studies**

## Accelerated Reader results

The results are in for this terms Accelerated Reader quizzes and the balloons have taken flight in the library!

7A1 (SBo) - 78	7B1 (AMc) – 151
7A2E (AMc) - 43	7B2E (KMo) – 55
7A2W (AMc) - 35	7B2W (MPa) – 0
7A3 (CBa) - 3	7B3 (CBa) – 9

Congratulations to Year 7 Band B for this half term with a total of 2215 quizzes, incredible work! Special mention goes to :

7A1 - Cameron Gibson (12) and Henry O'Donnel (12)  
 7A2E - Imogen Harkness  
 7A2W - Maddie Baxter (13) and Finlay Lodge-Brown  
 7B1 - Alaiya O'Hara (18) and Edward Hawkins (16)  
 7B2E - Salasbeel Faseeh (7) Harry Probin (5) and Hattie Russell (7)  
 7B3 - Elliot Carline (2) Jack Stevens (2) and Oliver Wojda (2)

You can log on to Accelerated Reader at home to complete your quizzes. If you are experiencing any issues with logging in please see Miss Codner. Don't forget we have our Accelerated Reader club in the library every Tuesday lunchtime.

**Mrs A Williams – Teacher of English**

## Year 9 Students Commence Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

It was a pleasure to meet so many parents during the launch of this Year's Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and thank you for the useful questions and insightful comments after the presentation. We are delighted that over eighty students have joined the scheme since January and are now fully registered with online

accounts. The DofE phone app (logo below) is a great way to record evidence, and many students have already started filling in the sections for Volunteering, Physical and Skills.

Choosing a suitable Assessor for each section is essential to ensure the award can be fully verified. The Assessor should have an appropriate job title, role or area of expertise to complete the report after the section is completed. We are very lucky to have a number of Heber staff who offer their expertise outside the school curriculum to guide students. I very much appreciate those in the wider community who also volunteer their skills, including parents who complete sections for non-family members.

I will be offering continual support every Monday lunchtime to answer general questions and provide further advice, and students will find useful information on their Microsoft Teams account.

We are looking forward to working with our external provider for the Expedition section and on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, students will embark upon two days of training with an overnight camp to perfect their navigation and campcraft skills under the close supervision of qualified staff. The assessed expedition takes place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, again with an overnight camp.

**Mr Roberts – Teacher of Science & DoE Manager**



Phone App



Microsoft Teams

## Exam Updates

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students - Exam Certificates and change of address

Exam Certificates for this summer's exams arrive in school during November / December in the Autumn Term. If a student no longer attends Bishop Heber High School when the Exam Certificates arrive, we post their certificates to the home address we have on Arbor. It is essential that you check the address details held by school are correct and notify us of any change of address up to the end of the Autumn Term 2025.

**Mrs S Dakin-Evans – Data & Timetable Manager**

# Sports

## Rugby

Year 10, 8 and 7 teams were in action last month after a few cancellations due to bad weather. Gutsy performances all around with victories for Year 7 and Year 8 teams and a loss for our Year 10s who battled hard in the second half to score 5 tries!



Well done to our 1<sup>st</sup> VX who came out on top to a strong Adams Grammar School side with a 28-22 victory. The performance of the season by far!



Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV co-captain Dan Redhead (13B&W) who has been selected to represent the North of England. Fixtures for this season are to be played against London Southeast U18, then Southwest U18 on 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. Best of luck Dan!



There were wins all around for all of our teams this week vs Oswestry School. As our regular season for Heber Rugby comes to an end and we move on to 7's, a huge thank you to all volunteers who make the Saturdays happen! Also, a huge congratulations to the Y7 team who finished undefeated!



## Hockey

In a high standard of Hockey, the U16 girls took part in the NW Finals at Timperley. Every game tight with final positioning down to goal difference. The girls played some amazing hockey and did the school proud, representing the only state school there. Well done girls!



Winners of the NW T2 U12 Hockey Tournament. Well done boys, you all played fantastic. A new team with a great future. PoM Henry in goal!



## Table Cricket

Well done to the Heber Table Cricket team winning all 5 games in the first stage of the County competition and now through to the County Final in March!





## Fly Fishing

Congratulations to Sam Brain (9AMc) who after entering his first England Youth Fly Fishing competition at Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire in his first ever event (also the youngest participant at 13 years old) won to become English Champion. A great achievement, well done!



## Cross Country

Congratulations to Nia Manson (8G&T) who came second overall in the North Staffordshire Cross Country League and second in the Cheshire Cross Country Championship in Bentley.



Congratulations to Lewis Dutton (8BLo) who took part in the Shropshire X-Country Championships finishing a very credible 6<sup>th</sup> with a time of 13.16 for 3k. This qualifies him to represent Shropshire at the Inter Counties Championship in Nottingham on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. Good luck!

## Tennis

Congratulations to Maddie Crabb (9SFe) who came runner up in the Shropshire Tennis U14 Open tournament over Christmas.



Congratulations to Alfie Erraji (10KCa) for winning the Birchwood U16 tennis singles grade 4 championships.



## Netball

Year 8 A and B played Abbeygate on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Jan, both teams won and played some fantastic netball. Well, done girls!



## Football

An excellent performance and win in the Cheshire Cup for the Y8 boys beating Great Sankey 4-2. Scorers – Caldwell (2) R. Norman, Hay (pen) PoM – Wainwright.

Well done to the U15s netball squad who are through to the semifinals of national schools shield Sisters in Sport competition after a very close ¼ final against St Monica's 36-35! They now represent the NW school's vs the NE winners Hornsea in the next round semifinals!



Good win for the Year 7 boys football team beating Tarporley 4-1 in the District Cup. Scorers – Williams (2), Sheard, McCleave. PoM Toby Nelson.

## Athletics

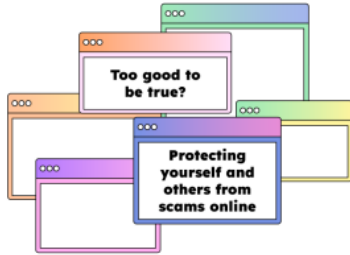
Congratulations to the Y8 boys – District winners and Year 7&8 Girl's district runners up in the recent indoor athletics championships. A Fantastic achievement.



**Staying Safe @ Heber – February 2025**

**SAFER INTERNET DAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. This year's theme is:



**What is an online scam?**

- It is a way of tricking people into handing over money, valuable items or personal information
- Online scams can be seen on websites, in games, in emails, on social media and in text messages

**What are the signs of an online scam?**

- Unexpected contact
- Sounds too good to be true e.g. cheap prices for a high-end product
- Asking you to spend money
- Asking for your personal information
- Tries to make you worried and / or take quick action
- Spelling mistakes and informal language
- Not referring to you by your name e.g. 'Dear User'
- Suspicious link or suspicious email
- Fake pictures or photos
- Comments turned off
- Pretending to be someone you know
- Trying to make you feel bad for them

**How do I protect myself from scams?**

<p><b>Set up two factor authentication</b> e.g. sending a code to another device you are logged onto or using an authenticator app</p>	<p><b>Use strong and separate passwords</b> e.g. with a range of letters, characters and numbers</p>
<p><b>Search online for more information if something looks suspicious</b> e.g. look for an official website or reviews</p>	<p><b>Go direct to the website or app rather than via a link</b> e.g. do not click on adverts and links</p>
<p><b>Look for buyer protection</b> You have better protection if you pay by credit card rather than by bank transfer</p>	<p><b>Only buy from secure sites</b> e.g. use sites that you know and trust</p>

**WHAT DO I DO IF I AM A VICTIM OF AN ONLINE SCAM?**

**Contact your bank or credit card company**

e.g. They can block payment and may be able to refund you if you are a victim of a scam

**Tell an adult and get a second opinion**

e.g. tell a trusted adult  
e.g. If you used someone else's bank card you must tell them straight away

**Gather evidence you are being scammed and cut contact**

Take screenshots of anything useful and cut all contact with the scammer. Use the screenshots to report the scam.

**Report to Action Fraud and block**



A law enforcement agency working to help keep children safe from online harms.  
**ceop.police.uk**



A way of contacting the local police in a non-emergency situation.  
**police.uk/pu/contact-us**

BISHOP HEBER  
HIGH SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

*Blue Sapphire  
Ball*

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

17 | 10 | 2025

Have **your say** about what's on offer for  
**young people** in Cheshire West and Chester

## Young people's Survey

Shape the future of youth activities in your area  
If you are aged 11-19 (or up to 25 with additional needs)  
we want to hear from you

Scan to  
complete the 5  
minute survey



# HEBER FOOTLIGHTS 2025 PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
7 p.m. Main School Hall**



**Tickets on sale from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
(£10/£6)  
[Yourboxoffice.co.uk/bishopheber](http://Yourboxoffice.co.uk/bishopheber)**

Student devised solo and small group performances of music, dance and drama. The evening will culminate with an announcement of our November 2025 school musical production.

## Main School Office

Your help with the following would be appreciated. Lost property:

- Please ensure all items of School clothing and equipment is clearly named/labelled.

Equipment:

- Please ensure your child comes to School with the correct equipment for the day.

Please do not allow students to bring any items of value into School as we cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage.

## Attendance

Our school's attendance policy has recently been updated and can be located under the parents' section of the school website for further information.

<https://www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk/parents/policies/attendance-policy>

## Finance

You can now donate to the Enrichment support fund via Scopay. The following items are available to purchase online via Scopay:

Calculator - Casio fx-85GTCW Scientific (Solar Powered) £10.50

Calculator - Casio fx-991CW Scientific (Solar Powered) £20.00

Gum Shield £2.50

If you wish to purchase any of these items, please do so via Scopay and they will then be available for your child to collect from the Finance Office. If you have not yet signed up for Scopay and you need the information on how to do this please email [finance@heber.org.uk](mailto:finance@heber.org.uk) and we will send you the details, please include the student's name in the email so that we can send you your unique log in.

## Free School Meals

Did you know that by registering for Free School Meals your child not only has the opportunity to enjoy a free school meal, but they could also be entitled to a substantial reduction in the cost of some educational visits and after School activities?

The School also benefits from additional funding for children who are registered for free school meals or who have been registered in the past six years. The funding gives every student in the schooling system the same opportunities to succeed.

Additional support mechanisms at Bishop Heber include intervention classes along with financial support for educational visits and activities.

## Am I eligible for Free School Meals?

You will qualify if you are receiving one of the following benefits;

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

## Do you receive Working Tax credit?

If you or a partner receive Working Tax Credit regardless of income, you will not qualify for free school meals.

## Free School Meals Helpline - 0300 123 7039

Free School Meals Information –

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/.../schoolmeals.aspx>

The free school meals team can assess your claim over the phone using an eligibility checker to confirm entitlement