

James Brindley Academy  
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Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**RE: Free School Meals Scam**

Dear Parents/Carers

James Brindley Academy has become aware of the recent fraudulent activity surrounding free school meals entitlement. The scam emails that have been sent to parents and carers claiming to help support the funding of free meals while schools are closed but the **Department of Education** (DoE) has said the emails are part of a scam.

A spokesperson for the DoE said: “We have been informed some parents have received an email stating: ‘As schools will be closing, if you’re entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we’ll make sure you’re supported’. “We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.”

James Brindley Academy will continue to provide alternative arrangements for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals and will update you directly if these arrangements are amended or changed in any way.

This is just one of a series of scams focused around the coronavirus pandemic so please be vigilant in regards external communications, especially those requesting personal details – if you are in any doubt or have queries, please contact the Academy directly.

**Hardip Bissell**  
**Principal**

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