

5th January 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you know, we live in a world where our children are expected to be confident users of technology in both their learning and also in their future careers. However, there are still a large number of students who do not have access to computer technology at home. This is a concern as it has been shown that having access to a computer and the internet can enhance learner achievement, increase motivation and help parents and carers to get more involved. This in turn raises their children's attainment. Recent evidence has also suggested that having home access to a home computer could help learners achieve a two grade improvement in one subject at GCSE. This means that a student who would have got a grade D, could, through the effective use of technology at home, now get a grade B at GCSE.

To assist families who cannot afford to buy a computer, or connect to the internet, the government has set up the Home Access programme. The government's vision is to ensure that all students in state maintained education in England have access to a computer with internet connectivity at home. The Home Access programme is providing the encouragement and funding to do this. Following successful pilots in Oldham and Suffolk, the programme is being rolled out nationally, and will initially target students in years 3 to 9. Families who join this programme will be given a computer, 12 months broadband and a selection of software to assist learning activities.

Whilst this programme will start in January 2010, it is only available to those students who are eligible. Those entitled to apply are families with children in years 3 to 9 who attend state maintained school in England on a full time basis and did not receive a computer from the 'Computers for Students' or the 'Home Access' programme in the past. Of these families, the second requirement is that the family fits into one of the following groups:

- the child is eligible for free school meals,
- parent(s)
 - on income support
 - receives income-based job seekers allowance
 - receives the Child Tax Credit and has an income of less than £16,040
 - have guaranteed pension credit
 - have an income related employment support allowance
 - receive support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act.

We will issue further information upon this scheme shortly.

If you think your child may be eligible for this programme but have not yet completed an application form for free school meals, please contact the school reception on 01543 512455.

If you require any further information upon the Home Access programme, please contact Mr. M. Ryder using the school telephone number.

Yours faithfully,

C. A. HILTON
Headteacher