

## Home Access Scheme - Update

Small Heath School: A Technology College  
314 children qualifying for a grant  
20 families have claimed a grant.

This e-mail is a reminder about the Home Access Grant scheme (HAGS). Many of our schools in Birmingham have been successful in encouraging their parents to apply for, and receive, a free computer and connectivity. This is a prompt, and perhaps a final chance for schools who could still encourage uptake of the scheme.

As of mid-March, HAGS had allocated 109,423 grants across England, of a total of 270,000, with around 60,000 applications in the system. 4,901 of these grants have been made to parents in Birmingham. Our suggestion is that it is not quite too late for parents to make applications. However time is now running out.

Grants are available, on a one per family basis, to families with a child receiving Free School Meals, in Key stages 2 or 3.

The grants will be to a maximum value of £528, which is to pay for both a computer and an Internet connection. Families can apply for just the computer or just the Internet connection if that is all they need.

The grant is per family and not per child.

Families will need to complete an application form and provide evidence that they are eligible in order to receive their grant. The evidence will be an original Child Benefit Award letter that must be less than one year old and evidence of their eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM).

This means that if a family are claiming FSM then they just need to provide the Child Benefit letter and tick a box on the form.

Successful families will be issued with a one-off payment card that they can spend at one of the approved Home Access suppliers.

Please note that the Home Access website is at [www.homeaccess.org.uk](http://www.homeaccess.org.uk) and that you can call the Home Access helpline on 0333 200 1004 to request application packs.