

16.7.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to inform you about an upcoming change in the price of school meals. We understand that any increase in costs can be challenging, especially given the current economic climate, and we want to be transparent about the reasons behind this decision.

Unfortunately, due to significant increases in employer National insurance contributions, the mandatory minimal wage increase, alongside the ongoing impact of inflation, the Trust is no longer able to absorb these rising costs and continue subsidising school meals at the current price. We have worked hard with our providers, Edwards and Blake, to keep the increase as minimal as possible.

The cost of a school meal will rise from £2.42 to £2.80, taking effect across the Trust from 1st September 2025.

This price increase does not affect the Free School Meal entitlement.

The Government continues to support the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative. This means that all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 can receive a school meal free of charge.

If your child is in Years 3-6 and you are in receipt of any of the following, you may also be eligible for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after stopping 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 receive) at the time of your application.

We understand that this change may affect some families, and we want to assure you that we are committed to supporting all our students. If you are experiencing financial hardship, we encourage you to explore the possibility of free school meals. You can find information about eligibility and the application process on the school website or by contacting the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.