



July 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

As the proud caterer of the schools across the Meridian Trust, we have enjoyed another year of providing exciting, balanced and nutritious menus at the various breaks and lunchtimes across the school day with our core values underpinning this. We are fuelled by the passion for food that is at the heart of all we do, driven by pride of the service our teams provide, and powered by our staff and customers.

Each year there are increased costs to our business, the annual rise of the National Living Wage (NLW) rate for our staff which this year has been 4.1% along with the continuing inflationary rises in food costs, which will continue to see unknown impacts due to the situations out of our control. Caterlink have worked closely with The Meridian Trust, together we have been able to mitigate the costs as best we can but inevitably not all costs can be absorbed.

As such, in order to support the ever-rising costs, it is unfortunately unavoidable but to change our tariff for the next academic year. We are writing to communicate that there will be a tariff and meal price increase from September 2026. The current Primary and Secondary set meal price will be increasing to £3.00 from £2.80 and a 5% tariff increase applied to the secondary school menu items. The full tariff will be displayed on the individual school websites for when we return to start the Autumn term. Our commitment to ensure we are driving the uptake of the healthier items on our menus within our secondary schools, we will be holding prices, such as our bottles of water, Fruit items, and our salad bars. There will not be any price increases on these lines.

Our continued focus will be to deliver a balanced, nutritious, healthy food offer across all our schools with a real emphasis on ensuring we have 2 fresh vegetables and salad on offer to accompany our tasty menus every day. With carefully created menus in our Primary Schools which include a hearty main meal and dessert or fresh fruit and unlimited fresh salad bar and homemade bread or a great value for money meal deal which is healthy and balanced in our Secondary Schools.

Yours sincerely

Mark Harrison

Operations Director