



Wednesday 20 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Updated food purchase procedures, effective after half term

MCAS has now been in place for students' school dinner accounts for 12 months now. Following feedback, we are now making some adjustments to our procedures to make the system even more effective for all students.

Menu information

All weekly menus, meal deals and tariffs can be found on our website <https://www.lincroft.academy/catering> [Catering | Lincroft Academy](#). In our Dining Room and Grab and Go, items are labelled and menus are displayed to inform students of the available items and costs.

Drinking water

Students are able to refill their drink bottles using the drinking water taps around the school site. In addition, drinking water will be available in jugs at the cutlery station in our Dining Room. As the warmer weather approaches, please ensure your child always has a water bottle with them. Please note that glass bottles are not permitted.

MCAS account top ups

Information about how to top up your child's account can be found [here](#). MCAS provides daily updates via email when an account is in deficit. Checking the MCAS app can help you keep track of the account balance and ensure your child has sufficient funds to purchase food. A minimum top up amount of £5.00 will be applied to all accounts from Monday 1st June. We recognise that some families may be in financial hardship; please do contact us via your child's house office if you are having difficulty.

Biometrics

For security and efficiency, payments are taken using your child's fingerprint. This is currently used by most students. Where fingerprint consent has not been given, your child will be able to provide their name instead. While this process is slower, your child will still be able to purchase food.



Community



Aspiration



Respect



Excellence



Insufficient funds

To prevent debts accruing on accounts, students will not be able to overspend when they have insufficient funds. Please be assured that we will not let students go without food.

When students do not have money on their account, they will be directed to the finance office next to the dining room, to get a meal voucher for lunchtime which will entitle them to a meal deal priced at £2.80 They will also be able to get water from the jugs or drinking taps. Our staff will contact you to request an account top up and the cost of the food will be retrospectively deducted from the account.

Free School Meals

Those in receipt of Free School Meals will continue to be allocated £2.80 per day and we suggest this is spent on the meal deal of the day, to give access to a main meal and dessert or bottle of water. These meals are available at lunchtime only. Any purchases at breaktime will leave insufficient allowance for a meal at lunch time. To prevent this, accounts can be topped up by parent/carer. Alternatively, you may wish to advise your child not to make purchases at breaktime.

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals. More information can be found [here](#).

Current year 11's can continue to use the catering facilities providing accounts are in credit. Any excess funds will be refunded at the end of June, or transferred to siblings accounts if they use Caterlink facilities. Likewise, any overdrawn dinner balances will be transferred to younger sibling's accounts and you will be notified of this.

Next steps

We appreciate your support whilst we implement these adjustments. We kindly ask that you discuss this at home and set any boundaries regarding spending limits and food choices that you wish your child to follow. Please also remind them that they are responsible for following these.

Students were advised of these changes during Principals message on Monday, and the system will be effective after half term. If you have any question regarding your child's MCAS dinner account, please contact finance@lincroft.academy in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Ms E Appadoo

Principal