



7th July 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

Caterlink have been the proud catering partner of the Meridian Trust Schools since September 2024, during our tenure so far, we have enjoyed getting to know our customers and what is important to them from their daily mid-morning break and Lunch offer in the Secondary Schools and lunchtime offer in the Primary Schools. Providing a balanced nutritious meal is at the heart of what we do every day.

There have been some significant changes to all businesses over the last year which means we have had to review our tariffs. Firstly, the announcement in October 2024 that there would be significant changes to the Employer National Insurance Contributions (NIC) rates for all businesses, with ours being impacted more so due to the staffing requirements of our business. The changes came into effect in April of this year. Secondly the annual rise of the National Living Wage (NLW) rate for our staff and lastly the continuing inflationary rises in food costs. 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 2025. The current Primary and Secondary set meal price will be increasing to £2.80 from £2.60 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 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