



BENTON PARK SCHOOL

'Creating a climate for great learning, success and opportunity'

19th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to provide an update on our Catering services. Back in 2017 we brought the catering service in house from Leeds City Council, transferring across the team of staff and taking responsibility for the menus and food we offer.

Our philosophy around the provision is to offer students and staff healthy quality food and a wide choice to suit all tastes at an affordable price. Where possible, we also use local suppliers to ensure the provenance of our ingredients. Since moving the operation in house, we have held our prices at the 2017 level despite an increasing wage bill and rising cost of ingredients. As a school moving through the pandemic, we did not wish to add to an already difficult time for our families.

However, as we all know rising prices and inflation are causing issues in all aspects of life and are affecting both businesses and individuals alike. We are now really beginning to feel the effect of this on our catering operation, as a result of rapidly rising costs of food, energy and wages. Since bringing the service in house we already heavily subsidise the catering operation from the wider school budget and this subsidy is set to increase further.

We have a responsibility to ensure we are using the budget in the best way possible for the benefit of all our students and balancing all of the school's priorities, the governors have had little option but to approve a small price increase to some of our catering items.

We have chosen not to pass on the full increase in prices to our families and have taken the decision to continue to subsidise the cost of our school meals.

Details of the new prices are included below and will take effect from Monday 6th June 2022:

Item	Current Price	Proposed Price
Meal Deal includes a homemade pudding or fruit or a small water or a small baked good/ biscuit pack.	£2.40	£2.55
Main Meal	£2.10	£2.25
Sandwich Deal	£2.40	£2.50
Sandwich Deal deluxe – roll or wrap	£2.60	£2.70
Fruit	£0.70	No change
Water	£0.40	No change
Cheese on toast	£0.65	No change
Toast	£0.35	No change

The price of basic healthy items such as fruit, water and toast/cheese on toast remain unchanged to give all students, continued access to some sustaining healthy food.

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them every day and top up using one of the many water fountains around school to avoid the need to purchase water.

Items such as flavoured water and sweet treats have also increased by 10p as these are discretionary items.

Headteacher: Miss D Martin

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 @BentonParkSch



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The cost of our Free School Meal allowance will be increased to £2.55 to continue to allow students to access a meal deal or sandwich deal. We would urge any parents/carers who feel they may be eligible to apply for Free School Meals to do so using the link below. If you need any support in completing this form please do not hesitate to contact our Finance team on financeteam@bentonpark.net who will be more than happy to help.

<https://bentonpark.org.uk/students/school-meals/>

We are aware this is not ideal news given the current economic circumstances, however, we still feel that the cost of our meal deal represents good value and is a sustaining healthy hot meal for our students should they choose it.

Should you wish to view your child's purchasing history please logon to ParentPay for further details. We currently have a system default daily spend limit of £6 and the majority of students do not spend anywhere near this value. However, if you would like to more closely control your child's spending and add a lower daily spend limit please email financeteam@bentonpark.net . Weekly menus, along with a full price list can be found on our website at <https://bentonpark.org.uk/students/school-meals/>

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact sharon.pepper@bentonpark.net

Yours sincerely

Delia Martin
Headteacher

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