



BENTON PARK SCHOOL

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

28th March 2024

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 implemented only one small increase in June 2022 as 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 continuing 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 some price increases to our catering items.

Details of the new meal prices are included below and will take effect from Monday 15th April 2024:

	Current Price	Proposed Price
Main Meal (Any Hot Meal, Sandwich or Panini)	£2.25	£2.75
Meal Deal 1 (Any Hot Meal, Sandwich or Panini Plus 1 Extra)	£2.55	£3.25
Meal Deal 2 (Any Hot Meal, Sandwich or Panini Plus 2 Extras)		£3.75

The price of basic healthy items such as fresh fruit, some breakfast items and water remain unchanged to give all students, continued access to 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.

The cost of our Free School Meal allowance will be substantially increased to £3.75 to allow students to access either Plain Toast at break AND Meal Deal 1 at lunchtime OR Meal Deal 2 at lunchtime. The aim of this is to provide a greater degree of flexibility to those families struggling the most. 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.

Executive Headteacher: Miss D Martin | Headteacher: Mr N Skilton

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 @BentonParkSch



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We are aware this is not ideal news given the current economic circumstances however, we firmly believe that the cost of our meal deals represents good value and is a sustaining healthy hot meal, prepared and cooked freshly each day on site 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 £10 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 our Finance Team.

Weekly menus, along with a full price list and Free School Meal information can be found [here](#)

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our finance team at financeteam@bentonpark.net

Yours sincerely

Nik Skilton
Headteacher

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