



Dear Parent/Carer,

School Meal Price Increase from April 2022

As you are aware the economy has suffered severe impact over the last two years, this has led to an unforeseeable spike in inflation rates and the impact of the National Living Wage. This has affected all our school contracts, and in particular, our School Meals. To give you some context, we are seeing on average +11% increase on food supplies, as opposed to the forecasted 4.9%, which was based on inflation insight in summer 2021. In addition to this, labour costs increasing by 6.6%, rather than the predicted 5.7% and further pressures relating to rising sundries costs and National Insurance.

Your contracts team at East Sussex have been working incredibly hard with our school meals supplier Chartwells, to offset some of these increases and, due to the scale of the East Sussex contract, we have so far been able to do this without disrupting the service delivery of the School Meals. Having said this, Chartwells have already written off a large deficit during the pandemic and are still recording losses on our school meals contract for the academic year 2021-2022.

With inflation rising at the rate we have seen, and predictions of future rises of between 8-10% Chartwells have been working with us on an open book basis and we have negotiated a meal price increase which will take affect from **18th April 2022. The new meal price will be as follows:**

£2.32 Secondary (with a 2.1% tariff increase)

We have certainly not taken this decision lightly and we are proud to be able to continue to offer one of the lowest meal prices in the South East, and we know many school meals contracts already have a meal price well in excess of the £2.34 price.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and if you would like to discuss this further or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

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Senior Contract Officer

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