

Dear Parents & Carers

Increase in cost of school meals – September 2021

I hope that you are keeping well and looking forward to the summer break.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our school meals catering provider, ISS, increased the daily cost for pupil meals twice, in April 2020 and more recently, in April 2021. However, given the circumstances, Waterton Academy Trust did not feel it appropriate to pass on these costs to our families. The price increase came as a result of rising costs associated with school meals provision, but we believe that the new prices continue to offer families and school staff great value.

The daily meal price charged to parents/carers has not been increased since September 2019. The Academy has been standing the cost of increases, but due to budget constraints, we can no longer continue to do this. As such, the price for a main meal and a desert will increase to **£2.25 daily** starting in September when the school reopens to pupils after the Summer break.

This increase applies to all pupils in year 3 and above from September 2021. If you pay for school dinners using the online payment system, the system will be updated and you will be charged accordingly.

The Government have pledged continued support for the Universal Infant Free School meals scheme and this means that all of the children from Reception to Year 2 will continue to be entitled to free meals.

It will also not affect those children in year 3 and above who already receive free school meals. If you are unsure about your eligibility for free school meals, please speak to the School Office who would be happy to assist you. It is important that if you think you are eligible for free school meals that you apply, as it not only saves you money, but the school will receive additional funding to support pupils who are from families that qualify for free school meals.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support, and please take care, stay safe and have an enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully



Mrs P J Knox
Chief Financial Officer
Waterton Academy Trust