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To Parents and Carers
THPT Secondary Schools

6 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Meal Price Increase

We are writing to let you know that regrettably from 1 November 2026, the cost of a school meal for students will be rising by 10p per day to £2.85. We still believe that the prices remain very reasonable in comparison to local schools.

This letter was intended to be issued to all THPT schools before the October half-term break; however, unfortunately, this did not happen, for which we apologise. We recognise some families are unaware of the price increase, and it remains important to us that all families receive advance notice of any changes. We are reviewing our communication processes to ensure notifications are issued with adequate notice.

As our catering service is facilitated by an external provider, we were unable to delay this increase to provide more time for your awareness. The increase of 10p per day totals £2.10 for the month of November.

We appreciate that any increase in cost may have an impact on some families. If this increase has affected you financially, we would like to offer your child/ren a free main meal. To request this, please complete the Microsoft Form by **Tuesday 10 November** and a free meal will be provided by the end of November. The link can be found here

Please note that this offer applies to a main meal only. A choice of main meals will be available for students with allergies or specific dietary requirements.

In the meantime, please be assured all children will continue to be served a school lunch even if their account hasn't sufficient funds. From December, schools will follow the normal process of contacting parents and carers where this occurs.

This decision has not been taken lightly, and we recognise the financial pressures many families continue to face. However, this increase will help ensure that our catering provider can continue to offer freshly prepared, high-quality meals without compromising on ingredients or service standards. As you may be aware, catering providers continue to face significant cost pressures. Rising food prices, increased distribution costs and wider inflationary pressures are impacting the cost of delivering school meals.

Arrangements for meals for students who receive Free School Meals (FSM) are unaffected. Should you be facing financial difficulties, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals. You can check whether this might apply by clicking on this link, or by typing www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals on your web browser. We would like any families in receipt of Universal Credit to be aware that your child/ren are now eligible for free school meals regardless of household income. If these circumstances apply to you, please do use the link above to register.

The 3-weekly menu cycle at your school does change twice a year; at the beginning of Autumn 2 and Summer 1.

Please be assured that we are committed to ensuring that your children continue to receive healthy and balanced meals that support their growth and learning. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Felicity Gilmore
Executive Director of Education
The Howard Partnership Trust

THPT Schools