

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Caterlink in partnership with Outwood Academy Hemsworth

We are very proud and privileged to be appointed as the catering provider at your child's school from September 2023.

Caterlink is a leading provider of contract catering to the education sector throughout the UK. We pride ourselves on innovation and commitment to finding imaginative new ways to enhance every student's dining experience, by making school food tasty and appealing. We continue to actively work with Outwood Academy Hemsworth and my onsite catering manager and we are fully committed to making the changes necessary to deliver a great catering service for each student.

We will be investing in the school by refreshing the front of house service areas with new equipment, new signage, and display wares, where we will deliver our healthy and balanced menus to ensure students continue to enjoy the dining experience. Seasonal and nutritionally balanced healthy menus will change twice annually offering variety along with new dishes to stimulate inquisitive minds and encourage students to try new foods. We take pride in the role we play in educating young people on good nutrition and healthy lifestyles. We aim to enhance this through our "added benefits" activities such as Smoothie bike, bread making, healthy eating assemblies to name a few.

At the heart of our offer is freshly prepared, great-tasting and attractive menus that have been carefully considered by our inhouse nutritional team. We put the highest possible emphasis on healthy school meals and we are very conscious that these also need to provide excellent value for money. Whilst we are working hard to mitigate inflationary pressures it is unfortunately not possible to avoid price increases all together. After careful consideration the prices will increase by 10% from the start of January term 2024. This is in the national context of prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages rising by 19.2% in March, 12.2% in September and 10.1% in October when compared to prices a year earlier. Whilst it is encouraging that the rate of inflation is coming down, inflation itself is still high. The meal deal will remain at £2.50 and we not be included in the 10% price rise. The meal deal includes a hot meal, drink and dessert. These must all be purchased together at the same time for students to qualify for this deal.

We are very aware that cost and affordability is very important to our customers and would like to reassure you that we have worked hard to ensure our food offering affordable for all – please see attached tariff and menus.

If any families are struggling with the cost of living, you may be eligible for free school meals. If you are unsure if you qualify for free school meals please contact Wakefield Local Authority. Further details can be found [here](#). Please note Caterlink uses a fingerprint system and therefore it is confidential who is in receipt of free school meals.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you for the time in reading this update letter, for your continued support and I look forward hearing the positive feedback from students over the coming months.

Kind Regards



Neil Heslop MIAB
Operations Manager