

8th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, we are working with a specialist catering provider, Caterlink, to provide catering at Outwood Academy Hemsworth. We are continually reviewing this service to ensure that it offers good value for money for our students and obviously this is particularly pertinent with the current pressures on cost of living.

To ensure this is sustainable, and that we make the best use of school funds to provide an excellent education for your child, we need to ensure that all students have sufficient balances on their account to pay for the food they need each day.

From Monday 11 March 2024 students will only be permitted to incur a maximum overdraft of £2.50 on their account. We understand that a student may run out of funds or a parent/carer has not had a chance to add funds to their child's account. The £2.50 is sufficient to allow students to buy a meal deal (main meal, dessert and drink). This deal is only available as one purchase and can't be split over break and lunchtime.

If your child runs out of money on their account, they will be provided with a meal and catering staff will inform your child that they are now in debt and they will need to top up their account for the following day in order to purchase food.

To support your child managing their account, we are also going to introduce a £6 maximum daily spend. If you would like to increase this for your child, please contact Caterlink at 5907-outwood-academy-hemsworth@caterlinkltd.co.uk. Students need to be registered in order to make any payments. Registration letters are being sent out for any student not already registered. If you don't have access to a computer, you can request a PayPoint card where you can top up in cash at a post office or any other shop that has a PayPoint. This does take longer to get to your account, so please do this well in advance.

For families that are in receipt of free school meals, your child will still be able to access a free meal deal, ensuring they receive a main meal, dessert and drink. Additional to this, the academy provides a free bagel for all students every morning between 8am - 8.15am in the Dining Hall. If your child is on free school meals and they go into debt, they must also return their account to zero that evening ready for the following day.

If you need any further support please contact their Learning Manager at the school. Please could I also encourage you to apply for free school meals if you are eligible to do so. Not only does this provide free school meals for your child it also increases the funding the school gets to support students. Further details can be found [here](#). Please note the academy uses a fingerprint system and therefore it is confidential who is in receipt of free school meals.

Your faithfully



Mr J Pape
Principal