

July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We know that many families within our school community are finding the cost of living difficult, especially the increased cost of fuel and food and the rise in inflation, which is affecting so many areas of all of our lives.

In March 2023, we wrote to all of our families and outlined that our school meal costs had historically been subsidised to keep the price low, but regrettably, due to circumstances beyond our control we would have to increase this cost in April and potentially again in September 2023.

Appleton Academy currently charges £2.00 for a Primary school meal and £2.35 for Secondary, which is well below what the majority of other Bradford Schools are charging. Unfortunately, from Tuesday 5 September 2023, we have no option but to increase the price of a school meal. This increase is still below the current cost of inflation and the rising food costs that we pay our suppliers, which means we will continue to effectively subsidise school meals.

- For Appleton Academy Primary pupils, the current cost of a school meal is £2.00. From 5 September 2023 this will increase to £2.10, and this cost will remain fixed until at least January 2024
- For Appleton Academy Secondary pupils, the current cost of a school meal is £2.35. From 5 September 2023 this will increase to £2.45, and this cost will remain fixed until at least January 2024.

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

We want to support our families in any way that we can and so if your circumstances have changed, or you would simply like to check if your child qualifies for free school meals, you can do so by contacting our school office via an email to info@appletonacademy.co.uk or you can speak to our Parental Involvement Officer, Miss Chesterman. You can also check your eligibility yourself using the link below:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

You can apply for school meals if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit
- the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400



While all children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 receive a free school meal, it is still important to check if you are eligible. For all children who are eligible for free school meals, the Academy also receives pupil premium funding. This money goes directly towards the education your child is receiving at school and is also used to provide a number of additional and enriching resources and experiences.

If you have any questions or concerns about this price increase, please don't hesitate to contact us by emailing info@appletonacademy.co.uk in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Jones." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ms Helen Jones
Executive Principal