

23 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to notify parents of secondary children of an increase in the cost of a school meal at Appleton Academy from Monday 13 April 2026.

We know that many families within our school community worry about the rising costs of living. We have worked hard with our catering partner, Aspens, to ensure that school meal prices remain as low as possible and have implemented very few price increases in the last 5 years. However, regrettably, due to continuing rises in costs of product supplies being faced by companies in the school meal sector, it is necessary to raise the cost of a secondary school meal at this time.

The price increase has been capped at the lowest possible amount, as school will continue to subsidise the cost of school meals for children attending Appleton Academy. The cost of our school meals also remains below the price charged by most other schools in Bradford.

- For Appleton Academy secondary meals, the current cost of a school meal is £2.45
- From 13 April 2026, this will increase to £2.55

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 perhaps you haven't done it previously, and you would like to check if your child qualifies for free school meals, please contact school by emailing info@appletonacademy.co.uk in the first instance. Colleagues can help you check your eligibility and provide you with the relevant paperwork to complete to apply for free school meals. Alternatively, you can do this yourself via the Bradford Council website:

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

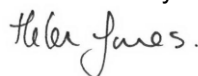
You can apply for school meals if you receive:

- Income Support or 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

We would also like to assure parents that our school systems operate in such a way that children accessing free school meals are not identifiable to others, which we know can be a concern for some parents who worry that children may in some way be stigmatised due to their eligibility.

We thank you in anticipation of your support with these changes.

Yours faithfully



Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher