

## Regeneration & Environment

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Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref:  
Secondary Lunches

Please Contact:  
Kim Phillips

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**25 May 2023**

Mr D Curran  
[info@astonacademy.org](mailto:info@astonacademy.org)

Dear Colleague

### School Lunch Prices September 2023

After significant evaluation of the cost pressure experienced by Riverside Catering over the last 12 months it is with regret that I have to inform you of the need to increase the charge to the school of a meal to allow the service to continue providing a service which meets the School Food Standards at your site.

As has been widely reported, the costs of all food produce has risen sharply over the last 12 months. The food cost per meal has risen by 31% and whilst inflation is expected to fall in the coming months, food inflation is currently running at 19%.

In addition, **the front-line staff servicing the meal** to the children have received a pay award in excess of 10%, ensuring they remain within the living wage receivers, which I hope you feel is worthy of school support. Riverside Catering management team/senior Council employees have not received this level of pay award.

Given the above cost pressures the service are absorbing some of the costs, as we are aware of the limitations of school budgets, however there is a requirement to increase the cost of meals and management fees by 6% from 1 September 2023. The management fee for 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 will be £38,814 with meals costing:

- Pupils entitled to a free meal - £2.65
- Pupil paid meals - £2.60
- Staff or Visitors entitled to a free meal - £2.86
- Staff paid meals - £3.34.

We appreciate the continued support you have given the service and we hope that you will agree that this remains exceptional value for a healthy, two course, freshly prepared meal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Phillips', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kim Phillips MBE  
Head of Catering & Facilities Services  
Planning, Regeneration & Transport, R & E