



Washington Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Dear parent/carer,

We aim to ensure that our students have access to nutritious food whilst in school. As part of a Trust wide initiative, we will be updating our menus to meet the needs of our students, whilst providing a cost-effective service.

Therefore, I am writing this to inform you of the services that we provide and of some changes that will take effect from Monday the 23rd of September 2024.

Our Breakfast Club runs from 8am to 8:20am. This service is **free to all students**, regardless of whether they are in receipt of Free School Meals. This allows students to come in and have a free toasted bagel or cereal to start their day off.

Our lunch menu is being updated to incorporate new and tasty meals whilst still retaining some of our student's favourites. These changes have been made in line with the latest government guidelines on nutritional requirements as well as feedback gained from our taster sessions we ran in the previous school year. The new menus will be uploaded to our school website for you to look at. We will be reviewing our menus on a regular basis through sales analysis and feedback such as our Student Voice and Student Council.

One area we have worked hard to protect is the overall cost of school meals and we have managed to do that for many years by keeping the prices fixed and absorbing the rising costs of fuels and food prices from within. Unfortunately, as the costs of running a school continue to rise this is no longer viable for us to do any longer so, in consultation with the Trust, we have had to increase the cost of our school meal deal to £2.50. This cost is still lower than the average cost of a school packed lunch (£2.73 as detailed by Starling Bank research) and £0.15 cheaper than the average school meal. This will provide your child with a hot or cold meal and a choice of either a dessert or a drink up to 330ml.

This is also an opportunity to inform/remind you all of the fact that we have numerous water dispensers around school which can dispense cold or room temperature water for students to fill reusable water bottles for use during their day. This is more environmentally friendly than using disposable drinks bottles and will reduce costs to you and to the school.

We will still be offering a variety of snacks for students during morning break but please be reminded that these snacks cannot be purchased using Free School Meal entitlements.

If you or your family are experiencing difficulty with rising food costs and need assistance, we are able to offer food hampers through our charitable connections for those in need.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Carter

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