



CATALYST

Dilkes Academy

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24th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you already know, at Dilkes Academy we are committed to providing healthy school dinners to all our pupils to support their learning, development and overall well-being. The menus carefully designed by Ashlyns offer a wide choice of familiar, healthy dishes at affordable prices that aim to fuel our children so they can achieve and thrive at school each day.

As you are no doubt aware, the rising cost of living has impacted many areas of our lives, and we are very conscious of the pressure that this places on families. We have been working hard to ensure that any adjustments we make to our services remain fair and sustainable, without compromising the quality of food we provide to our pupils. However, due to the significant increases in the cost of sourcing ingredients and the ongoing impact of inflation, we find ourselves in a position where we must raise the price of school meals. After holding off on this for as long as possible, we have made the difficult decision to **increase the cost of a school dinner to £2.50 per day**. This is still substantially cheaper than other local schools.

This increase will be **effective as of Wednesday 23rd April 2025**, upon our return after the Easter break.

We want to assure you that we have kept this increase as low as possible and have worked hard to ensure that the quality and nutritional value of our meals will not be impacted, as we remain dedicated to providing food that is both healthy and enjoyable.

Please remember that if you do not already receive free school meals, you may be eligible. For more information, to check eligibility or to apply please see follow this link: [Free school meals | School meals | Thurrock Council](#). If you receive benefits and your child gets Universal Infant Free School Meals you should still apply online for Free School Meals. This will allow us to receive extra funding that could support your child as well as others.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Latham
Deputy Executive Headteacher

