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Dear Parents/Carers

As we begin the new school year, I would like to share some important information regarding school meal prices, free school meal eligibility, breakfast provision and parent contributions.

School Meals

Following a review by our catering provider, Innovate, school meal prices will increase from this term. Innovate has been significantly affected by rising food, ingredient and supply chain costs, reflecting wider cost pressures across the food industry. We have worked closely with them to ensure that any increase is kept to a minimum while maintaining the quality and value of our meal provision.

Overall, prices have increased by an average of 3% across the menu. A full price list and the autumn term main meal menu are attached for your information.

The school meal deal is now priced at **£2.65**:

Hot Meal Deal

- Main hot meal of the day or Jacket Potato
- Hot dessert or bottle of water

Chill Deal Combo

- Filled roll
- 4oz snack pot
- Small home bake
- Yoghurt pot or drink

Thank you to all parents who completed our catering survey last term. Feedback was largely positive, with particular praise for the quality and freshness of the food, the range of menu options and the speed of service. We have also acted on areas identified for improvement, working with Innovate to make pricing clearer, better promote menu choices, strengthen recycling arrangements and further develop the range of meals available. We remain committed to working with students, parents and Innovate to ensure the continued improvement of our catering service.

ParentPay is our secure online payment system which is used for school lunches, booking places on trips and visits, arranging music tuition, or purchasing essential resources and equipment. If you need help setting up your account or have misplaced your login details, please contact reception on info@cardinalheenan.com and we'll be happy to assist you.

Managing meal accounts

If your child purchases meals at school, please ensure their ParentPay account remains in credit so they can buy food every day.

Generation Juice Machines – Coming in October

We are also pleased to be introducing a significant environmental improvement from October. Single-use plastic drinks bottles will be removed from the canteen and replaced with GenJuice machines, offering a range of popular fruit juice flavours. This change will significantly reduce plastic waste, lower our carbon footprint and provide students with a more sustainable and cost-effective drinks option.



To support this change, all students will need to bring a refillable drinks bottle to school every day, which can be used at school water fountains or for purchasing drinks from the GenJuice machines. Reminders will be shared with students closer to the time.

Free School Meals

From September 2026, eligibility for Free School Meals has been expanded. Any household in receipt of Universal Credit is now eligible to apply; the previous earnings cap has been removed.

We would strongly encourage any family in receipt of Universal Credit to submit an application. The process is quick and straightforward and can be completed online via the Leeds City Council website: [Apply for free school meals | Leeds.gov.uk](https://leeds.gov.uk/school-meals)

If you have any queries about a previous or existing claim please email: lcc.benefits@leeds.gov.uk.

Students receiving Free School Meals will now have a daily allowance of £2.65, enabling them to purchase either of the meal deal options outlined above. Alternatively, they may choose to spend this balance on other food items available from the canteen.

Parents and carers are welcome to add additional funds to their child's ParentPay account should they wish to supplement this allowance.

Free Breakfast Provision

As part of our commitment to supporting student wellbeing and readiness to learn, we continue to offer free cereal (summer months) or porridge (winter months) each morning between 08:30am – 08:50am for all pupils.

A range of additional breakfast items are also available to purchase during this time, and a snack bar is open at morning break time.

Parent Voluntary Contributions

The Parent Voluntary Contribution Scheme plays an important role in helping us provide opportunities and resources that go beyond what can be funded through our core budget. Contributions help us to enhance students' experiences both inside and outside the classroom, supporting projects such as sports equipment and team kits, musical instruments, educational visits, school productions, enrichment activities and improvements to the school environment.

This scheme is entirely voluntary and we deeply respect that not every family will be in a position to contribute. However, if you are able to support us through a regular monthly contribution or a one-off donation, it will make a meaningful and lasting difference to the opportunities and experiences we can provide for our students.

A suggested £5 a month donation per pupil would generate over £50,000 a year to be spent on enhancing school life for our children.

You can contribute in one of the following ways:

Set up a monthly standing order via your bank

Sort Code: 05-01-21

Account Number: 32081978

Account Name: Cardinal Heenan Capital Fund

Reference: Your child's name

Or

Make regular payments or a one-off donation via ParentPay (please note, this will continue to show as an active payment to allow you to make further contributions should you wish to do so).

School Minibus

We're delighted to have placed an order for a new school minibus to replace the minibus that was stolen last year. We'd like to thank all the parents and businesses that made donations and supported our fundraising efforts over the past year, including payments through the parent voluntary contribution scheme; your support was invaluable in enabling us to purchase a second bus and it will make a huge difference to our extra-curricular and enrichment timetables.

My School Fund – Cash Back Scheme for Parents & School

For parents that shop in Sainsburys or Argos, My School Fund is an initiative that offers cash back to parents through e-gift cards, whilst also giving cash back to your chosen school.

The scheme is quick and easy to join. Parents can link the payment cards that they use at these retailers and, each time they shop, receive 2% cashback as an e-gift card, while a further 1% is donated to the school.

Any cashback earned by school will be spent on resources for our children. Flyer attached for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Kelly
Headteacher