



# SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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BSH/CO/ADMIN/ALLDEPTS/SLT/BSH/2324/SCHOOLMEALS

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The Head's Herald is where we communicate key weekly information, to keep you in the loop. I appreciate you are incredibly busy but if you were able to take the time to read it I would really appreciate it. If there is anything else you feel we should put in there, then please do let me know. It is so important that you feel you have all the information to hand. However, I also do not want to over load you, hence why I feel a weekly comms is appropriate.

I have communicated the issues we are currently facing regarding the School lunch provision, but just for clarity I will again explain the circumstances we are facing and how we are dealing with it.

The issues were/are:

- The meal deal used to be a meal, a drink and a cake/biscuit. Without prior warning this was changed to a meal and a drink OR a meal and a cake/biscuit, not both.
- The portion size of the main meals was not adequate to be classed as a meal.
- There were price increases without prior warning
- The Free School Meal allowance did not match the meal deal price.

We have an external catering provider we use and we are in the process of having meetings to see if we can resolve the issues. From the meetings the following has happened.

- Changes in staffing.
- The meal deal **WILL** now include a drink and a cake/biscuit but the meal deal price has gone to £2.45, this is the best compromise we could reach.
- Free School Meal allowance for the young people will go up to £2.45.
- The quality of the food has much improved.
- The company will communicate in advance with a rationale for any price increases, so I can inform parents/carers.
- Our Free School Meal allowance will match the meal deal prices.
- The portion sizes for the main meal have increased.
- All the chips are fresh and hot on 'Chip Thursday'.
- We do not run out of food choices. There is the same choice if you are first in the queue or the back of the queue.

The best solution is always to work together to ensure we provide the best service. Of course, we will look at longer term solutions as well but my priority is making sure my young people have access to good quality food at affordable prices. I really do appreciate your patience and I know how important it is to you.



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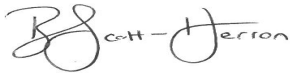
• HIGH EXPECTATIONS | HIGH ASPIRATIONS | HIGH STANDARDS | YOU WILL SUCCEED

On a further positive note, the dining room extension has been approved and work will start on this soon. This will mean that half of the quad area near the DT rooms will be another dining room. There will also be different 'food stations' available for the young people to buy food and have more choice. This will reduce the queue size so they can get to the Extra Curricular activities on time and it will also give us a huge space which can be utilised on wet days.

The picture below is so you can get an idea of what we would like, so you can visualise it.

If there is anything else I can help or support with then please do let me know.

Kind regards



Beverly Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**

