

Our ref: NAAT/19 July 2023

Date: 19 July 2023

Dear Parent

### **Change in Free School Meal Allowance – 1 September 2023**

As a Trust we are well aware of the impact that the cost of living crisis has had on our local community and recognise that this situation is likely to remain over the coming months. In light of this, the Trustees of Northern Ambition Academies Trust have agreed that the Free School Meal Allowance from 1 September 2023 will be increased from £2.30 to £2.50 per pupil meal per day.

Over the course of the last year the Trust's costs for purchasing food have increased by 15%. Whilst the Trust increased the value of the Free School Meal by 0.05p in September 2022, this does not cover for increased operating costs incurred by the Trust for providing meals.

At Airedale Infants School the cost of the school meal is covered by the Universal Free School Meals grant received from the Government. This is also the same for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at Oyster Park Primary Academy.

For pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 at Airedale Junior School and Oyster Park Primary Academy, the cost of a school meal will also be increased to £2.50 per meal per day.

Small increases will also be applied to the existing cost of attending breakfast or after school clubs where meal items are provided at Airedale Infants, Airedale Juniors and Oyster Park Primary.

At Airedale Academy, pupils entitled to a Free School Meal, will be able to select from a range of 'Meal Deals' to the value of £2.50 per meal per day. The range of 'Meal Deals' will be increased to ensure that pupils have a wider choice. The current menus will be reviewed over the summer break and small increases applied in line with the increased costs.

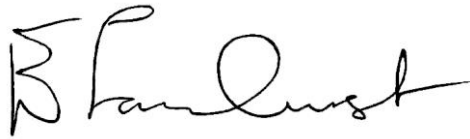
Those pupils who are charged for a meal will be able to choose from the wider menu but the 'Meal Deals' on offer at Airedale Academy do represent fantastic value for money. We would encourage parents, carers and pupils to check out the revised menus before the start of the Autumn Term on the school website and via MCAS.

We are aware that the increase in cost of a school meal is yet another consideration for you to have to account for. However, we strongly believe that the Trust provides a quality and value for money catering service.

Please remember to upload any payments to MCAS prior to the start of the new Academic year in order that your child has a balance on their individual account in September 2023. Any balances remaining at the end of this academic year, will be automatically carried over into the new academic year.

Should you have any queries about the content of this letter please contact your child's school in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Fairhurst', written in a cursive style.

**Elizabeth Fairhurst**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
Northern Ambition Academies Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Hall', written in a cursive style.

**Rob Hall**  
**Chair of Trustees**  
Northern Ambition Academies Trust