



'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

11th July 2024

Dear Parents and carers

RE: School Meal Price Increase and Changes

Following communication recently from Cheshire East Catering I am writing to update you on some changes to the school catering service provided by Cheshire East Council. For many years, Cheshire East staff have ensured that high quality school meals are provided to children and young people across the schools within RCSAT and across Cheshire East.

However, over recent years, there have been increasing financial pressures in running this service due to both food and transport inflation and pay rises that have impacted on their running costs. This has led to the council providing a significant subsidy towards school meal costs. This is not a service that the council must provide and, given their current financial position, is not one that they can sustain. Therefore, it is with regret that the council has decided to cease trading its school catering service by April 2025.

As the council, has removed its subsidy to the school catering service for this financial year and, despite making all available savings, they will need to **significantly increase the charge made to schools to provide a school meal from September 2024 to March 2025.**

Therefore, the cost of a school meal from 2nd September 2024 will be £3.20 per day (applicable for KS2 pupils only as REC and KS1 pupils receive universal free school meals).

As a trust, we are currently looking for a future option that provides a more cost-effective school meal service in the longer term. In the meantime, we hope that you will continue to support the Cheshire East school meal service that is doing the best it can to provide your child with a healthy and nutritious meal.

Many thanks for your continued support

Kind regards

Nic Badger

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