

School Meals Update - December 2023

Outwood Academy Newbold

Dear Parents/Carers,

As some of you may know, in September 2023, Derbyshire County Council and our caterers Chartwells agreed an increase to meal deals in Derbyshire schools from £2.60 to £3.55. As a school, we felt passionately that this increase was too much for our families, in what is an already difficult time financially. In response to this, we were supported by our school catering team, who agreed to temporarily provide a two course meal deal for £2.90 and charge the academy the cost of a drink. This, however, is something that the academy would not be able to sustain long term. This measure was implemented during the interim period in which we were in discussion with Derbyshire County Council and Chartwells to look at different options.

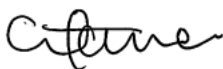
The school welcomed a forum of parents to discuss what they thought would be the best course of action, they agreed that they would prefer the option of a meal deal under £3.00 for two courses, including a main meal and a dessert and that parents would supply a water bottle to be filled at the water fountains in school.

We have fought solidly over the last three months to come to an agreement and this week Chartwells have agreed that they will provide a two course meal deal for £2.90 from January 2024. We are delighted that this will now give our parents a cost effective option, while still enabling our students to have something substantial to eat at lunchtime. This will also make the school more sustainable and reduce plastic waste. Should your child wish to have a meal deal with a main, dessert and a drink this will be £3.55. We will be publishing our price lists on the website to give full transparency about the cost of food and the options available for our students in January, ready for the next term.

Additionally, after our trial in September and October, we have decided to continue to provide a free breakfast of toast, cereal, fresh fruit or yoghurt as an option for all of our students, should they need it, between 8.00 - 8.15am in the dining hall to further support our families.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas, we look forward to welcoming your children back in the new year.

Kind Regards



Gemma Farrer
Business Manager

