



Hall Green School An Academy

24 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carers

School food service - Inflation increase February 2026

Working in collaboration with Chartwells Schools, our catering provider, we are proud that we have significantly improved our school food service over the last few years. Pupils have been involved in planning the meals available and in ensuring the quality of food. Pupil feedback is extremely positive. Our next improvement is to aim to introduce an additional serving point to reduce queuing time. We hope to have news about this over the next couple of months.

Chartwells Schools' mission remains steadfast: to nourish young minds with meals that are both nutritious and delicious, helping children to thrive and learn. Their expert chefs and nutritionists create menus that go beyond the School Food Standards, aligning with Public Health England's salt and sugar guidelines and the Food Standards Agency's rules on additives.

Unfortunately, cost pressures across the sector remain significant, with the cost of food and labour both increasing. The increase to the National Living Wage in April 2025 stands at 6.7 percent, with an average rise of 8.7 percent over the past four years. Looking ahead, we are forecasting a further increase of at least 5.9 percent in labour costs for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, changes to National Insurance Contributions have added approximately 2 percent to employer costs.

While year-on-year food inflation has eased, prices remain volatile. This is especially true for seasonal British produce, where supplier costs are expected to rise due to adjustments linked to National Insurance changes.

As a result of this inflation, Chartwells Schools are needing to increase some of their costs from Monday 2 March.

- Meal price from £2.40 to £2.50
- Cookies from £0.75 to £0.80
- Radnor Fizz from £1.05 - £1.10.

As always, we as a school, and Chartwells Schools as our catering provider, remain committed to our partnership with you, ensuring we continue to deliver value, uphold quality and prioritise the wellbeing of the pupils we serve.

Yours faithfully

Miss K Slater
Headteacher

Hall Green School is part of West Midlands Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (Number 15869744). Registered Office: c/o Kings Norton Girls' School, Selly Oak Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1HW.

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