



Thornhill Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Dear Parent/Carer,

We aim to ensure that our students have access to nutritious food whilst in school. As part of a Trust wide initiative, we will be updating our menus to meet the needs of our students, whilst providing a cost-effective service.

Therefore, I am writing this to inform you of the services that we provide and of some changes that will begin to take effect from Monday 6th of January 2025.

Our Breakfast Club runs from 8am to 8:30am. This service is **free to all students**, regardless of whether they are in receipt of Free School Meals. This allows students to come in and have a free toasted bagel or cereal to start their day off.

Our lunch menu has been updated to incorporate new and tasty meals whilst still retaining some of our student's favourites. These changes have been made in line with the latest government guidelines on nutritional requirements as well as feedback gained from our taster sessions we ran in the previous school year. The new menus are on our school website for you to look at. We will be reviewing our menus on a regular basis through sales analysis and feedback such as our Student Voice and Student Council.

One area we have worked hard to protect is the overall cost of school meals and we have managed to that for many years by keeping the prices fixed and absorbing the rising costs of fuels and food prices from within. Unfortunately, as the costs of running a school continue to rise and this is no longer viable for us so, in consultation with Consilium, we have had to increase the cost of our school meal deal to £2.50. We will do this in two stages. From January 2025, the cost will rise to £2.30 and following the Easter holidays (28th April), the cost will rise to £2.50. This cost is still lower than the average cost of a school packed lunch (£2.73 as detailed by Starling Bank research) and £0.15 cheaper than the average school meal nationally. This will provide your child with a hot or cold meal and a choice of either a dessert or a drink up to 330ml.

This is also an opportunity to inform/remind you that water is available from the school dining hall at breaktimes and lunchtimes, for students to fill reusable water bottles for use during their day. This is more environmentally friendly than using disposable drinks bottles and will reduce costs to you and to the school.

We will still be offering a variety of snacks for students during morning break but please be reminded that these snacks cannot be purchased using Free School Meal entitlements.

Your family may be entitled to free school meals, you can check your eligibility by following this link [Free School Meal Eligibility Checker](#)

If you or your family are experiencing difficulty with rising food costs and need assistance, we are able to offer food hampers through our charitable connections for those in need.

I appreciate your support on this, Thornhill has excellent dining facilities, and I want to ensure we can continue to invest by reducing the catering deficit altogether. I'm happy to discuss further if you have any issues.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs S. Hamilton
Headteacher