



27th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Increase in the price of paid for school meals from 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

We are writing to inform you that due to the continuing growth in food and catering costs, the price of paid school meals will increase at the start of the autumn term 2024. We wanted to give parents as much notice as possible about this change.

We understand the impact this has on the cost of living for all families and Harmony Trust has subsidised meals this year to stop prices increasing. However, there is no additional funding from the Government, so next year the price to families will have to increase given other pressures on our budgets.

To reduce the impact of this, Harmony Trust will continue to subsidise the cost of meals for children entitled to FSM to make up this shortfall. We have also made sure the cost to parents of paid meals is the same as what other schools charge in the local area. Unfortunately, there will still be a price increase for paid meals:

**The price for school meals will increase to £3.00 per day (£15.00 for one full week)**

**The increase will be in effect from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Free School Meals Entitlement**

You may be entitled to apply for free school meals for your children if you receive one of the following income related benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income below £16,190 per annum
- Working Tax Credit during the 4 week period immediately after your employment finished, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week
- Universal Credit, your household income must be less than £7,400 (£616.67 per month) after tax and not including any benefits you receive.

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes

The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ  
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## THE HARMONY TRUST

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If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will also qualify for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme which you can read more about here:

<https://www.oldham.gov.uk/haf>

You can check if you are eligible for free school meals by filling out the quick application form online at [www.oldham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals). Once an application is approved the school is notified. If you have any queries about free school meals, you can contact the council via email: [benefitsfsm@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:benefitsfsm@oldham.gov.uk)

The office team will make the necessary checks for you once the completed form has been returned to us.

Please remember we no longer accept cash in school. All payment for dinner money must be made via Parent Pay. If you have not signed up to Parent Pay, please email [info@westwood.theharmonytrust.org](mailto:info@westwood.theharmonytrust.org) and we will send you your activation letter.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Ms Wimperis

Westwood Academy

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