

05/06/25

Dear Parent / Carer,

September Meal Price Increase

We hope all the students we cater for are enjoying their school meal provision as we strive to provide a range of daily options that are popular, nutritious and produced from ethically sourced ingredients.

It will come as no surprise to you that following the budget announced by the Government it will be more challenging than ever from April to provide a sustainable, quality food service at a price acceptable to everyone that uses it.

From April 2025 there was an increase in staffing costs (up to 13.75% for some positions). By way of example, the cost of employing a General Assistant earning the National Living Wage and working 20 hours per week will grow from £10,268 to £11,680 per year. This represents an increase of 13.75% and we anticipate a further rise next April of around 6%.

In addition, you will have seen in the media that food costs continue to grow. The most recent review saw price increases in core items, including potatoes (up 57%), onions (up 27%), pasta (up 53%), and bottled water (up 8.5%). For our menus, this represents around an 8% increase.

As a result of the additional costs outlined above, we will reluctantly need to reflect them (in part) in our meal prices from the start of the autumn term. Therefore our menu tariff levels (from 1st September) will increase by 9.4% in order to cover these increased costs.

We can assure you that we have done everything we can to minimise the impact of this increase with innovative menus and recipes. We will continue to strive to make efficiencies where we can whilst also reinvesting in our menus and service so we can continue to provide pupils at Ulverston Victoria School with the highest quality, freshly produced, school meal provision as possible

We are keen to see everyone who is entitled to receive Free Schools Meals. The Free School Meal allowance will continue to cover the price of our meal deal. **If you think your child is eligible for Free Schools Meals, we encourage you to apply via**

If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Customer Care on 01942 707709 / customercare@dolce.co.uk

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Angie Lingwood
Head of Dolce customer car