17th November 2026

Alsop High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share some very important updates on our catering provision and explain changes coming into effect on 1st December 2026.

Since September we have introduced new menus, a wider choice of food and digital kiosks that make buying food quicker and easier. However, from 1st December we are now also changing how students can spend money on food at school.

Changes on 1st December
Some students accounts have built up significant debts, which has caused difficulties for families. From 1st December, students will **not be able** to spend beyond their daily allowance and go into a deficit.

Students who are entitled to free school meals (FSM)
Students will continue to receive £2.65 each day, from their FSM allowance. They can choose to use their allowance at break and/or lunchtime, as students told us they are sometimes hungry before lunch or prefer the food on offer at break, so this gives them more flexibility. If you would like your child to be able to spend more than £2.65, you will need to top up their account in the MCAS app. There will be a spend limit of £6 per day (inclusive of their FSM limit), subject to their available balance.

Students on paid accounts
Students can spend up to £6 per day, subject to their available balance. The daily limit will help families plan for with their child, what they might spend. This can be spent at break and/or lunchtime. Please ensure your child's account is topped up in the MCAS app, for each day.

Daily Limit
If you would prefer to set a lower daily limit than £6, please email enquiries@alsophigh.org.uk

Please talk with your child about their food choices and how they can plan their spending across the school day. All menu items can be found on our website here. We will explain the changes to students in form time and assemblies.

As part of our commitment to supporting students and families with the high cost-of-living, we are continuing to offer our free food and best-value options.

- **Free breakfast items** of either cereal or a bagel is available to all students every morning from 8.00 to 8.25 am. Additional breakfast items are available to buy, if preferred.
- **Free toast** is available at morning break at 11.00am, for all students.
- Our daily **meal deal** is the best-value lunch option and includes a main meal, a drink and a dessert/piece of fruit.

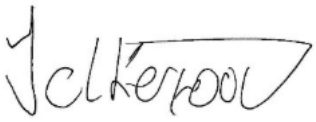
Moving away from food cards to fingerprint biometrics
Students have told us that losing or forgetting their food payment card can make buying food stressful, especially when they have to ask for temporary access. We value what students tell us and we use it to make improvements wherever we can. We are now preparing to introduce fingerprint scanners at the digital kiosks so students can buy food without needing to bring a card. We will share further details with families and students before the system is introduced, later this month.

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You can find answers to frequently asked questions about these changes on our FAQ webpage here. If you have any further questions or need help with your child's meal account, please email us at enquiries@alsophigh.org.uk.

We believe these changes will create a more efficient system for students while helping all families manage food spending more easily, so thank you for your continued support as we introduce these improvements to our catering service

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Kerfoot
Executive Principal