Dated 10th December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Whilst our supply chain team have been working relentlessly with our national and regional supply partners to ensure schools & colleges have the catering provisions required to run a catering service, Caterlink can no longer sustain the price increases.

Food, packaging, energy, and fuel inflation have grown at rates not seen since 1992 and are simply not sustainable for businesses throughout any supply chain. We are now in a position where we cannot take on any further increases without passing them on to our customers via food tariffs. Caterlink have already taken increases of 8% in product costs since September 2021 with no current signs of improvements on the horizon coupled with salaries increased in April 2022 via national living wage by 6.6%.

According to the Government’s Office of National Statistics – “Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverage” index has increased by 13.1% in the year to August 2022

It is regrettable that these costs will need to be passed on through a tariff management taking effect in January 2023 as we return after the festive period, as our current tariff can no longer sustain the extreme levels of inflation. Our plan is to increase the top 15 items which included pasta, pizza, & sandwiches. We will not be increasing the healthy items such as water, fruit & main meal. We do want students to eat healthy nutritious food in our facilities. It goes without saying that if and when we see inflation fall, prices stabilise and reduce, we will pass this back via our tariffs. We hope that this demonstrates that Caterlink are committed to offering a strong value for money offer to our customers.

I fully understand these types of communication are never welcome, however, I hope you understand this decision has not been taken lightly but is a necessity within the current climate.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Gerrard

Group Manager