



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Changes to Meal costs, Free School Meal Lunchtime Allowance and Other Available Support

I am writing to inform you that, after careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to increase the cost of school meals from **1 September 2026**.

Our catering provider, ABM, works hard to keep meal prices affordable for families. However, due to the significant increases in the costs of providing meals, we have reached a point where a price increase is necessary. This will help us continue to provide a high-quality catering service that offers healthy, nutritious meals, caters for all dietary and allergen requirements, and ensures food is prepared and served safely within our school environment.

From **1 September 2026**, the following prices will apply: **Main Meal: £2.10**. A full list of catering prices can be found on the School Meals section of our website: [Queen's Park High School – School Meals](#)

Information on how to top up your child's catering account can be found in the ParentMail section of the school website: [Queen's Park High School – ParentMail](#)

Students who are eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)** will continue to receive a daily lunchtime allowance of **£3.00**. The Meal Deal, priced at **£2.50**, includes:

- Any main meal
- One side item
- A dessert or fruit pot

In addition, all students have unlimited access to drinking water from the hydration stations located in the canteens.

Free School Meal Eligibility

You may be entitled to claim free school meals for your child if you receive one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

For information about eligibility and how to apply, please visit the Cheshire West and Chester Council website:

[Free School Meals | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Summer Holiday Support for Families Receiving Free School Meals

Families who receive Free School Meals and need help with essential food costs during the summer holidays can apply for support through the Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).

Applications for summer holiday payments are now open and will close on 31 August 2026.

Apply online via the Cheshire West and Chester Council website.

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QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL, QUEENS PARK ROAD, CHESTER CH4 7AE

T: 01244 257088 | E: enquiries@qphs.co.uk | W: www.qphs.co.uk

X @qphschester | @qphschester | QPHS Chester

Headteacher: Mr Tom Kearns BSc NPQH





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Changes to the Crisis and Resilience Fund from September 2026

The Crisis and Resilience Fund replaced the Household Support Fund in April 2026. It ensures that financial support is available for families who need it and provides longer-term support to help boost income and manage debt.

To support families during the transition to the Crisis and Resilience Fund, payments have been awarded to applicants who are in receipt of Free School Meals and who have provided the required evidence. The same approach will apply during the summer holiday period.

From September 2026, however, the Crisis and Resilience Fund will be available only to help people experiencing an unexpected financial crisis. Applicants will need to explain the financial shock they have experienced and how it has placed them in financial hardship.

Support Available All Year Round

Even if you are not in receipt of Free School Meals, the Crisis and Resilience Fund may still be able to help with a range of costs, including:

- Crisis payments
- Help in Emergencies for Local People (HELP)
- Housing Payments and Discretionary Hardship Payments
- Heating oil support

Further information about these schemes can be found on the Council's website.

Other Financial Support

Additional information, advice and support are available through the Council's Cost of Living webpages, which bring together resources on:

- Financial assistance
- Welfare and debt advice
- Local support services
- Emergency assistance

Assistance with School Uniform Costs

Parents and carers are eligible for assistance with school uniform costs for students that the school receives Pupil Premium funding for.

For full details, please refer to page 8 of The Learning Trust's School Uniform Policy, available on the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

L Carding

**The Learning Trust
Financial Officer**

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