

# Is the Price of a School Meal Rising?

**For many people, school meals are a handy choice and a particular favourite of lots of parents. But are they rising? Is the price of school meals going up?**

One student that very rarely has school meals said to us that he thought they were ‘expensive’ and ‘some of them are not worth the price.’ He also commented ‘items like fruit, drinks, desserts and cheese are massively overpriced’. However one student said that wasn’t the case. He said ‘the fruit was a good price as it is fresh’. One member of teaching staff also said that ‘the main meals are worth paying’ for.

The catering manager at St. Benedict’s told us that costs were rising due to ‘lots of different factors’. She said that the prices of the ingredients are going up and transport costs. She also said that equipment maintenance and food safety controls cost a lot of money as well as the fuel for cooking. Brexit was also a factor, although she also commented that they were still very good value for money compared to eating out. Another point she made was that a lot of her time was taken up by her continual efforts to get the best value for money from suppliers. She said that a major investment this year has been a new cashless system and parent pay. The better system and easier payment would compensate a little for the higher costs.

Also, the catering manager said that there was no profit made and the intention of the service was to just break even. But more important was to make sure everyone had the opportunity to get a nutritious meal during the school day.

So whether you are a student or a teacher the prices of school meals are going up and the reasons are more complicated than you might think. For some school meals are a good choice but others will still choose to bring in their own lunch.

Ethan, Oliver & Louie

