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## Catering Price Increases

Dear All,

Unfortunately, as we are all aware, there are rising costs in many aspects of life at the moment.

Today we have had notification that there are going to be further stock shortages, as a result of the conflict in Ukraine.

Please see latest information from one of our local suppliers:

*The EU's Meat and Dairy industry rely heavily on imported feed crops from Ukraine, which currently are not available. Ukraine, and neighbouring countries like Poland, are also holding supplies to assist with their own use and provide for the influx of refugees. This has resulted in shortages and as demand increases, we are experiencing price rises of 10-15% overnight. Agriculture cannot function at this time in Ukraine, which has increased costs of wheat, livestock, and sunflower oil in excess of 25% in the last 7 days, since the start of the conflict. The long-term effects on the food production industry would vary depending on the length of the invasion, but the impacts will also be magnified due to an already vulnerable supply chain because of Brexit and Covid-19.*

We are already experiencing shortages in deliveries, and often up to 40% of the order can be missing or substituted.

We will continue to provide pupils with a hot and cold meal option, however the menu may need to be changed at short notice.

The schools are impacted with price changes from today, therefore regretfully from 21 March we will need to increase the price of the food we sell, this will be charged per item at Fitzharrys and John Mason Schools, and there will be a flat rate increase in costs per meal from £2.20 to £2.40 at Rush Common.

I hope you understand the situation and we will continue to offer as varied a menu as possible for students at the best prices we can.

If you have any individual concerns please contact [enquiries@abingdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:enquiries@abingdonlearningtrust.org).

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Bratt  
Chief Finance Officer

Justin Sercombe  
Catering Manager