

8 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

IFG proudly serves over 800,000 pupils nutritious meals each day. Our award-winning teams are dedicated to serving vibrant, appetising food, freshly prepared using quality ingredients.

Like many organisations, we continue to face rising costs across food, ingredients, deliveries and staffing. We have worked hard to absorb as much of these increases as possible and have taken steps to minimise the impact on families. However, to enable us to maintain the quality of our food and service, school meal prices will increase to £3.00 from September 2026.

Several factors have contributed to this decision.

Food Inflation: We buy British and support our local economy where possible; however, due to global unrest, **we have seen food inflation of 3.7% with predictions of food inflation to reach 9% by the end of the year.** The increase is not only in the cost of delivering to our sites but also in the products we purchase. We have robustly negotiated and mitigated with our suppliers, ensuring we maintain quality; however, increases have persisted across all products and ingredients we buy.

Employee Funding & Retention: In April, the Government **increased minimum wage by 4.1%**, a positive move which will ease cost pressures for many of our colleagues. Alongside this, to retain and attract a high standard of leadership, we have increased wages for supervisory and managerial roles. Despite these positive advancements, the combination of these factors has resulted in significant ongoing cost demands across our industry, many of which we have absorbed.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to offering great value for money. We remain proud to serve a home-cooked main meal and dessert, as well as other options. We are passionate about creating menus that are nutritious, exciting and appealing to pupils.

Through partnering with schools, we continue to see more pupils enjoying our services. Whilst this is great news and tells us our menus are popular with pupils; we are always looking to encourage more young people to dine with us. If you have any feedback, we would love to hear from you.

We understand that any increase in costs can be difficult, and this is not a decision we have taken lightly. We remain open and honest about our challenges and will continue to seek your input.

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Registered in England and Wales

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Should you wish to discuss this letter, or anything relating to your catering service, please get in touch.

Kindest regards



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Chief Operating Officer

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