



March 2022

Dear Parent,

Firstly, we at Caterlink hope you are keeping well. We do appreciate just how difficult with all the rising costs of living. This has hit every person in the UK. We as a company have also experienced major inflation on food and other costs associated with our business. Unfortunately, as high levels of transmission remain and uncertainty within worldwide supply chains continue, we are not through this yet.

We have been working very hard with our suppliers to ensure we adhere to the food standards guidelines and maintain great quality and nutrition in our food, relentlessly continuing to work in the background. Caterlink can no longer sustain the price increases experienced since September last year. We therefore have no option but to increase our tariffs in our schools, something we really do not like to do.

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. From April 2022 salaries will also increase via national living wage by 6.6%.

It is regrettable that these costs will need to be passed on through a tariff increase as our current tariff can no longer sustain the extreme levels of inflation. 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.

The new tariffs will apply from the start of the Summer Term and these are listed on the school's website <https://st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk/caterlink-tariff/>.

We 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

Joanne Nunney

Divisional Director