

Dear Parent/Guardian

IFG proudly serves over 500,000 students nutritious meals each day. Our award-winning teams are dedicated to serving vibrant, appetising food, freshly prepared on site using quality ingredients. To enable us to continue to do this, our **tariff will increase by 2.0%** across our range from September 2024. Below we have outlined some of the cost pressures which have driven this increase.

Food Inflation: As is the case for supermarkets and restaurants across the UK, the rate at which food prices are rising has slowed, however, they remain high. Coupled with climbing fuel costs, we continue to encounter supply chain challenges such as lack of availability and higher prices.

Employee Funding & Retention: In April, the Government increased the minimum wage by 10%, 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 positive advancements, the combination of these factors means significant ongoing cost demands across our industry, many of which we have absorbed. Our agility has enabled us to avoid an April increase and keep our September increase down to 2.0%, which is notably lower than the current rate of inflation.

We continue to seek ways of reducing these challenges, however, we refuse to compromise on ingredients or service standards. We remain proud to serve a home cooked main meal and dessert, and several alternative meal deal combinations. Additionally, our free porridge provision at breakfast time, meal deals and new 'PowerBites' range at £1.30 are all designed to provide further support and/or more affordable meal options to ensure nutritious food is always accessible. We truly believe we offer students innovative dishes which rival the high street whilst providing families with great value for money.

Through partnering with schools, we continue to see more students enjoying our services. Whilst this is great news and tells us our menus are popular with students, 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 hope you understand our position and your family can continue to enjoy our services. We remain open and honest about our challenges and will continue to seek your input. Should you wish to discuss this letter, or anything else relating to your catering service, please get in touch.

Kindest regards



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