Through collaborative partnerships with schools, we continue to see more and more students enjoying our services; in many cases, take-up is almost 20% above the national average. We are dedicated to serving vibrant, appetising food, freshly prepared, using quality ingredients. To enable us to continue to do this, our **tariff will increase by 2.7%** across our range from September 2026. As part of this tariff review, we would like to propose an inflationary increase of **6.6% to the FSM allowance**, if not already agreed, to ensure our great range of food remains accessible to everyone. The great news is that we have frozen the price of all our fruit, yogurt, and salad dishes for another year. Below, we have outlined some of the cost pressures affecting our industry which have driven this increase.

Food Inflation: We buy British and support our local economy where possible, and as a result of global unrest, this has meant we are seeing **food inflation of 3.7%+ as well as predictions of food inflation reaching 9%+ by the end of the calendar 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, however, there has been persistent increase across all products and ingredients we buy.

Employee Funding & Retention: In April, the Government **increased the 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.

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 tariff increase and keep our September increase in line with inflation.

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Due to the current uncertainty over fuel and food prices, we may need to revisit our prices sooner than expected. We will do this with open communication as and when the situation arises, but we feel it is only right to prepare for this eventuality. Like everyone, we hope everything returns to normal soon.

We continue to seek ways of mitigating the costs associated with these challenges; however, with thousands of students relying on us, we refuse to compromise on ingredients or service standards. We remain proud to provide freshly prepared, cooked main meals and desserts, and several alternative meal deal combinations. We truly believe we offer students innovative dishes which rival the high street, whilst providing families with great value for money.

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