

15 July 2026

Sent by email

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to the Cucina meal deal and Free School Meal offer from September 2026

From September 2026, when students return for the new academic year, Cucina, our catering provider, will introduce an **improved meal deal offer** across all Leigh Academies Trust secondary academies. The new offer gives students more choice each day and makes it easier for them to eat well at school. This letter explains what is changing and what it means for your child.

The new offer

Given the cost-of-living pressures on families, we have kept the meal deal price at an exceptional price of £2.70, and, following feedback from students, it now offers six options each day:

- The main, delicious hot meal, of the day with a dessert or piece of fruit
- Jacket potato with two toppings and a hot dessert or piece of fruit
- Hot pasta pot (12oz) with a piece of fruit or hot dessert
- Sub roll with a piece of fruit or the hot dessert of the day
- Panini with a piece of fruit or the hot dessert of the day
- Chill Deal: choose four stickered items from the Chill Deal fridge

Whichever option your child chooses, fresh fruit is always available as part of the deal, making the healthy choice an easy one.

The self-serve salad bar will also be available as an option during the summer term, giving students a further way to add fresh vegetables and salad to their meal. A copy of the new offer poster is enclosed with this letter.

Free drink with every meal

As part of this move towards healthier hydration, every meal deal now includes unlimited refills of water or squash from the drinks dispenser, so your child gets as much to drink as they need with every meal at no extra cost. This change significantly reduces the number of single-use plastic bottles in our academies and supports our commitment to a more sustainable environment.

Who can use the meal deal

The meal deal is available to all students at £2.70. In addition to the meal deals, a wider range of individual items is available to buy in the dining area.

Free School Meals

The same meal deal is also our Free School Meal offer. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, they receive a meal deal each day free of charge.

Eligible students choose from exactly the same six deals as everyone else. As now, the Free School Meal entitlement covers the meal deals. If your child would like anything extra from the wider range, simply add money to their payment account in the usual way.

Checking eligibility

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals and is not currently registered, please read the attached information leaflet about checking eligibility or visit gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

We hope your child enjoys the new offer when they return in September.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Taylor
Deputy CEO (Operations)

Enc: meal deal offer poster; Free School Meal eligibility information leaflet

CUCINA MEAL DEAL OFFERS

at Leigh Academies Trust secondary academies

only
£2.70
per meal

FIVE DEALS. ONE PRICE.

**MAIN MEAL
& FREE DESSERT**
OR PIECE OF FRUIT
INCLUDES WATER
OR SQUASH FROM
THE DISPENSER

only
£2.70



MEAL DEAL

**JACKET POTATO ^{WITH 2 TOPPINGS}
& HOT DESSERT**
OR PIECE OF FRUIT
INCLUDES WATER
OR SQUASH FROM
THE DISPENSER

only
£2.70



MEAL DEAL

**HOT PASTA POT (12oz)
& A FREE PIECE OF FRUIT**
OR
HOT DESSERT
INCLUDES WATER
OR SQUASH FROM
THE DISPENSER

only
£2.70



MEAL DEAL

**PANINI OR SUB ROLL
& A FREE PIECE OF FRUIT**
OR HOT DESSERT OF THE DAY
INCLUDES
WATER OR
SQUASH FROM
THE DISPENSER

only
£2.70



MEAL DEAL

**chill
deal**
COOL COMBOS
FRESH FROM THE FRIDGE!

FILLED ROLL + SNACK POT + SMALL HOME MADE + DRINK

**CHOOSE 4 ITEMS
FOR £2.70**

LOOK FOR THE CHILL DEAL FRIDGE IN
YOUR SCHOOL DINING AREA TODAY!

Subject to availability

**EVERY DEAL
INCLUDES A DRINK**



**water or squash
from the dispenser**

ALL FIVE MEAL DEALS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS
— and **FREE OF CHARGE** to students eligible for Free School Meals —

Free School Meals

Don't miss out!



You could
save up to £500



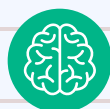
Your child's entitlement might not automatically continue under the new rules.

To make sure lunch is sorted for **September 2026**, you might need to complete a new application.

Free School Meals can support your child's:



Health and wellbeing



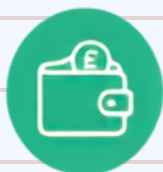
Concentration and energy during lessons



Attendance and participation in school

Do you qualify for either of these?

Targeted FSM



For households earning £7,400 or less annually
(excluding benefits)

Expanded FSM



For all other pupils in households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of income.



1. Check 2. Apply 3. Share.

Visit your local authority website to apply or head to the government website - [gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals) to check!

Do you know another parent who might qualify?

Please help us spread the word!!

