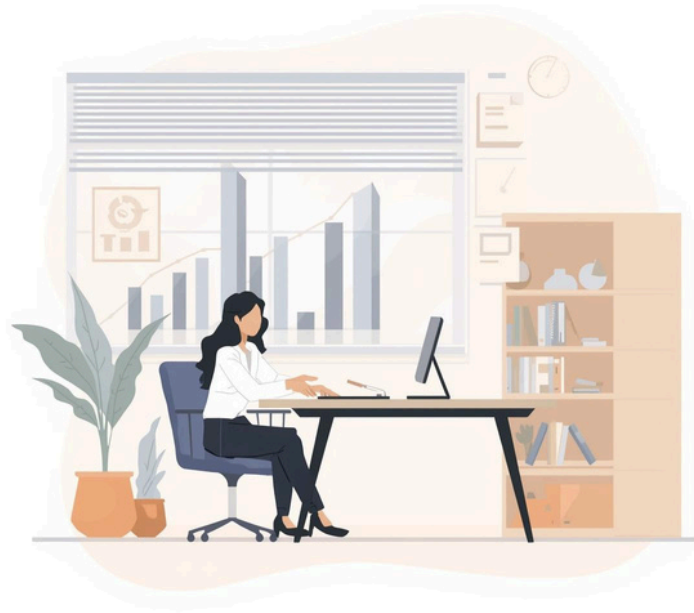
TUESDAY'S TOP TIP

SHARD Business Services

OUR WEEKLY DOSE OF SMART BUSINESS AND FINANCE TOP TIPS



Regular Review of Catering Finances and FSM Claims

Why?

Financial Monitoring

- Track catering income and expenditure against budget
- Identify overspends or cost pressures early

Funding Accuracy

- Ensure Free School Meal (FSM) claims are correct
- Maximise funding recovery linked to pupil eligibility

Useful Resources

- DfE FSM and eligibility guidance
- School Food Standards guidance
- DfE funding allocations
- ISBL operational finance guidance

Benefit

Regular review of catering finances ensures that income and costs remain aligned and that any financial pressures are identified and managed promptly. This helps prevent small issues from escalating into larger budget concerns and supports more effective financial planning.

Accurate monitoring of FSM claims also ensures that the Trust receives the correct level of funding, maximising available resources. This strengthens financial efficiency, improves cost control, and ensures that catering services remain sustainable while continuing to support pupils effectively.

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