

27th April 2021

Secondary Catering Provision 2021-22

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter reaches you and your families in strong health - body, mind and spirit.

Firstly, I wanted to express my gratitude for the feedback many families have provided regarding our catering provision and for remaining patient on this issue. In September, I was faced with several issues, that had clearly existed for some years, regarding the catering model and provision at the academy. The main issue is centred on parents/carers wanting the ability to allow their children to bring a “packed lunch” from home. Here, I fully appreciate the main reasons behind this sentiment. Moreover, I acknowledge that this is not a new issue and has been raised by our parents/carers in previous years.

I have spent a considerable amount of time reading numerous emails/letters and responding to phone calls personally. As well as spending time talking to our students about their feelings about the catering provision this academic year and in previous years. Consequently, there will be some changes in the secondary phase for 2021-22, with the key changes summarised below.

- Students will have a choice to bring a ‘packed lunch’ from home or purchase food provided by our catering team.
- Families will be asked to inform us in advance about whether their child will be bringing a ‘packed lunch. (Note: FSM students will automatically be catered for).
- Our catering team will be developing a new menu to ensure we provide nutritious cost-effective food at varied times throughout the day, which appeal directly to our students.

It is important to highlight that we remain committed to the following, which remain integral features of our catering model and provision at the academy.

- Family dining will continue, which will still see students sitting together to eat their lunch in the dining hall.
- Nutrition and healthy eating remains a key priority and therefore there will be clear guidelines on what “packed lunches” must constitute.
- Every student will be expected to eat each day during lunchtime.

These changes will be specific to the Secondary phase as there are some key differences with the primary phase. Ms Broadway and I have communicated regularly over catering related issues that have arisen from our families, which will lead to a review in the Primary phase next academic year, with any changes implemented for 2022-23.

Lastly, I wanted to raise the issue regarding “dinner money debt”. It is critical that all outstanding payments for school lunches are cleared so that the academy does not incur the costs of providing lunches for our students. Subsequently, there will be communication sent to all parents/carers where



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outstanding lunch payments have accrued. We will support any family with a payment plan, if this is required. Additionally, for the remainder of this academic year I ask that you ensure all payments for lunches are received in accordance with our current policy.

There will be further communication in the second part of the summer term detailing the specific plans for the catering model and provision for 2021-22. If you have any question or queries, please use the normal methods of communication.

Yours sincerely

Morgan Haines
Principal