

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

## Secondary Catering Provision 2021-22

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and that this letter reaches you and your families in strong health - body, mind and spirit.

As previously mentioned in my letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, I informed you that the secondary catering provision would be changing for the upcoming academic year. I am now writing to you to give you further information on this with regards to pack lunches and the new menu from our catering team.

Whilst we have made changes to the catering provision and updated our [dining vision](#) 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 remain 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, together.

From September 2021, students will have a choice to bring a ‘packed lunch’ from home or purchase food provided by our catering team. The details for each option are outlined below.

### Packed Lunches

All packed lunches brought from home and consumed in school (or on school trips) must provide the pupil with healthy and nutritious food that is similar to food served in schools, which is now strictly regulated by national standards.

Guidelines from Public Health England suggest that packed lunches should aim to include:

- Some starchy foods such as bread (sliced bread, pitta bread, wraps, bagels), pasta, potatoes, couscous; choose wholegrain where possible
- 1 portion of fruit and 1 portion of vegetables or salad
- Dairy food such as cheese or yoghurt
- Meat, fish, or another source of protein such as eggs, beans and pulses, hummus, falafel
- Oily fish once every 3 weeks e.g., sardines or salmon

Please see the link below for further details on the advice from Public Health England.



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eatwell-guide>

### **Packed lunches should NOT include or contain:**

- **Nuts, sesame seeds & poppy seeds** – including peanut butter, Nutella and cereal bars containing nuts as we have several **students who have a severe allergy**
- confectionery such as chocolate bars, biscuits and sweets. Individual cakes are allowed but encourage your child to eat these only as part of a balanced meal. Alternatives could include cereal bars (not containing nuts) or fruit
- Any drinks other than water/ flavoured water

An example of a suitable and acceptable packed lunch at Isaac Newton Academy would be:

- A sandwich or wrap
- A packet of crisps
- A piece of fruit
- A bottle of water

Students will be able to take their bags into the dining hall, as this will ensure that classes that are continuing in other areas are not disturbed by students returning to lockers.

### **Food purchased from the academy**

Our Catering team have introduced a new menu for this academic year including three meal options at lunchtime.

**Option 1:** A hot meat (halal, non halal & vegetarian option) or fish main dish, plus salad or vegetables.

**Option2:** A hot light lunch – paninis, hot sub roll or burritos.

**Option 3:** A cold light lunch – salads, sandwiches, baguettes or wraps

Please see the [price list](#) for further details as to options to purchase during lunchtime and cost for items. Please note that not all items on the menu will be available every lunchtime, these will be rotated. For example, on Monday's option 3 would only be salad or baguette.

For those purchasing lunch at the academy, **students will use biometrics to pay for their lunch** and their WisePay account will be charged for the items they have selected. Could I ask that parents ensure that accounts are topped up on a regular basis if purchasing academy food. If a student has no credit on their account, they will be unable to purchase food. Those students who are eligible for Free School Meals will have the cost of a 'meal deal' credited to their account each day.

For our new Year 7 parents, you will receive a WisePay log in on Monday, if your child chooses to have school meals for their first day they will be debited the money from their account so will be in arrears, so please ensure you credit the account on Monday.

Please note that whilst the catering model is changing, we are continuing to use WisePay as our current payment system. However, in line with changes being made in other Ark schools we will be moving our



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payment system from WisePay to I-pay around October Half Term but more details around this change will be sent out closer to the time.

I am aware that we have provided you with lots of information above and in the attached documents, please take your time to carefully read through them. Once you and your child have made a decision regarding their choice for lunch's could I ask that you please complete this short questionnaire by 12pm Monday 7th September

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBTLADSljUaCn2NuzjLCTBNHKqfhw1NoDSvIXkhQCdUNKZLSkFBNTVTTUg0Mfc2UEpMOFpHN1IZWS4u>.

If you have more than one child in the secondary, please complete the questionnaire for each child.

Please be aware that for the first half term the option you choose will be for the whole half term, you will not be able to switch between school meals and packed lunch. This will allow our catering team to know how many students they need to cater for with in the first half term.

If you have any further questions regarding the new catering policy, please send them to [info@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:info@isaacnewtonacademy.org) marking them for the attention of Ms Gilley.

Yours sincerely

Sally Gilley  
Catering Manager