

Dear Parents, carers, guardians and students

We want to take this opportunity to relay to you what our school meal service from September will look like, and reassure you that we have everything covered enabling us to continue to feed your children around your school safely.

At Academy, many of our team are parents themselves and therefore understand the challenges that you have faced over the past four months – home schooling, keeping young minds positive and perhaps in some cases the hardest ,feeding them 24/7 to name a few. We want to highlight to you how important it is to the catering team on site that our food provision continues to be healthy, nutritious and filling ,but above all else, safe in the difficult environment we have found ourselves in.

From September, schools will become a stabilising venue where your children are reunited with their friends, feel there is a structure to their day, and are be able to express themselves in the various school activities but in the confines of a different set of walls . We want to make sure that we contribute to their wellbeing too, by providing a balanced diet that is healthy, substantial, and inspirational

We appreciate the changes schools are having to make to keep Students and staff safe and we are working closely with them to offer the best food solution bespoke to the individual needs of each school that we cater for. We are also keen to ensure that when the students return in September that we are there to make the experience a fun one for them but with their safety as our priority

Here is a summary of what we are doing behind the scenes to give you reassurance during the summer break

- All changes made will be flexible enough to take in the latest and up to date government led guidance and advice. This advice is around social distancing, food safety and enhanced cleaning schedules. This includes potentially agreeing with your school changes to food service timings and locations if required.
- Our suppliers can support changes needed in delivery schedules to ensure that there is non-crossover and a 'no contact' process. For example, limited access to the kitchens, we only allow one supplier to delivery at any one time, handling of paperwork from our suppliers is restricted and delivery boxes are to be unpacked before storage of food takes place.
- Our due diligence procedures, including food hygiene and safety have new, enhanced recording procedures ready for September. Example the enhanced cleaning of touch points with the kitchen and dining area
- Our teams are carrying out specific return to work and COVID-19 training and will be certified "fit to work" before returning.
- We are also reviewing payment methods and ordering processes to ensure we are providing the safest method possible.

- We hope to take the pressure away from parents, guardians and carers, having to provide a balance and variety of food at home, by creating a range of food options, changing daily that is both healthy and appealing to all students

Covid 19 has made life for some families very difficult in that they have had a change in financial circumstances and may now be entitled to apply for Free School Meals. Please look into this. This website helps you to establish if you can claim.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

We have been feeding school aged students for many years and feel very proud of our team members whether that be our chefs, service staff or cleaning operatives they are all important in creating that service that we really looking forward to providing to your children when they return in September. We also look forward to welcoming all the new starters to school.

I hope this letter has gone some way to reassure you, to inform you and helped to make your decision about school food easier. We will provide more detailed information about the return to school, the food offers and structure of how we can work safely together, closer to September.

Thank you

Academy