



St Katherine's School



16 May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school and governors have been reviewing the catering services this year and have taken the decision to outsource our catering to Aspens from the 1 June 2019. This will bring many positive benefits to our young people and staff including greater variety, a wider range of healthy options and several new and exciting food concepts.

We have been working with a group of pupils who were involved in the tendering process and have listened carefully to their ideas and suggestions for how to improve the offer and canteen layout. The change of provider will bring about a number of changes, some of which are outlined below:

- Pupils will be able to check their balance and add credit to their account through a cash machine, using their biometric thumbprint.
- Pupils' accounts will need to be in credit to purchase food and drink from the canteen. **Please note the new provider does not provide any overdraft facilities.**
- The Finance Department will no longer be accepting cash for topping up accounts but they will still take payment by credit or debit card over the phone.
- Regular special theme days to tie in with the school's current activities and events.
- There will be new high-volume water fountains for pupils to access chilled water.
- We will continue to subsidise free breakfasts for all pupils eligible for Free School Meals. This service will be available before school and at break time.
- Pupils entitled to Free School Meals will enjoy a full meal of their choice from the menu including a drink. We will be expecting pupils to take full advantage of this offer.
- The canteen will offer more flexible access to sixth form pupils through the whole school day.
- A new queuing system will be introduced, improving the whole canteen experience.
- An external 'snack pod' will be installed towards the bottom of the school, giving pupils access to food and drink in an additional location.
- Single-use plastics will be completely removed from the drink selection, in favour of recyclable Tetra Paks.
- The new caterers will support food and nutrition learning in the school, with their chefs available to give talks and demonstrations in the classroom.

We are really excited about the new provision and setup in the canteen and are very confident all pupils will be enjoying the new setup and improved offer on a daily basis. Should you have any questions you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Paul Mingo West

Paul Mingo West
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