

Catering Provision from September – Updated 2nd September

The guidance makes it clear that school kitchens must reopen and offer a food service to all students who wish to access this. It also makes it clear that school kitchens must comply with the [guidance for food businesses on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

This brings a series of further restrictions and expectations into our logistics and risk assessment planning for September, particularly the fact that “as far as possible, food served and/or displayed should be individually wrapped to avoid any contamination.”

Grab ‘n’ Go

This coupled with the fact that we have had to introduce staggered break and lunchtimes to ensure that year group bubbles do not mix, means that we unfortunately will not be able to offer our normal full service or range of food and instead will have to adopt more of a ‘grab and go’ service.

This style of service will also enable us to more quickly serve students on each of the staggered break and lunch sittings, to enable time for cleaning between year group bubbles.

Removal of Biometric Thumbprint Payments

A further risk area that we are removing for September is the use of the biometric thumb print system to purchase food, given the obvious risks associated with what is a very heavy use touchpoint and the potential for cross contamination amongst students.

To avoid students queuing to pay for items and to free up more till staff to be able to help serve food directly to students, our intention is to issue students with a personalised payment / id card in September, linked to their Parent Pay accounts. This will be swiped on entry to the designated lunch area, where students will also be expected to sanitise their hands. However, due to a delay in the cards being ready (in part because year 7 and year 12 photographs can’t be taken until Monday 7th September), for the first two weeks students will give their name or their allocated number on entry to the lunch area, where a member of staff (this may be a post-16 student as a small number are employed at lunchtime) will register their name on the system. The staff member will maintain social distancing and will wear a visor.

Although we will endeavour to serve mainly wrapped food items to minimise the risk of contamination, we recognise that there may be some popular items that cannot reasonably be individually wrapped. Another benefit therefore of having more staff freed up from operating separate till points, will be our ability to have staff serving food directly to students rather than students self-selecting food ‘over the counter’. This style of service will enable us to keep a safe distance between students and the food on offer at all times.

Given the above, from September therefore, we will initially only be able to offer a set price break and lunch menu, which will allow some limited choice day to day. Once the card system is set up, by swiping into the area, the student’s card will deduct the relevant break or lunchtime payment amount and students will then make their choices from the day’s set menu.

Breaktime Offer – Set Price £1

This will include **one food item** and a **bottle of water**, with a range of brunch items being offered each week, including for example, pain au chocolat, sausage rolls and toasted tea cakes.

Lunchtime Offer – Set Price £3.50

This will include **one main food item** from a range of e.g. hot wraps, subs, paninis and sandwiches (including at least one daily vegetarian option), along with a **drink** (bottle of water or flavoured drink) plus a **traybake or a piece of fruit**.

As the large majority of our students usually purchase a drink at both break and lunchtime, a drink is automatically included for both provisions. At breaktime this will only be a bottle of water, which we hope will also help reduce the need for students to have to refill their own water bottles and therefore minimise use of water fountains during the day. At lunchtime there will be a range of different drinks included each week.

NB: The automatic inclusion of a drink, especially at breaktime, will be reviewed within the first half-term once our systems are fully established.

The set menu pricing has increased from 2019-20, partly because of inflation and increased supplier costs, but also because we are now automatically including a drink within the set offer. N.B. Bottled water currently sells for 70p a bottle, with flavoured drinks usually ranging in price from 75p-£1.10.

Whilst much more limited in its range than we would like, we hope that our initial brunch and lunch offers will enable all students to have food in school as per the guidelines' expectations, whilst also allowing us to mitigate the risks associated with food service as much as possible in our school's context.

Packed Lunch

For students wishing to bring in a packed lunch, there will be designated 'sandwich rooms' which will keep each year group in their 'bubble'.