



The Petchey Academy

Inspiring & supporting every child

Headteacher: Clare Borrill BA (Hons) MEd NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: The Academy's Catering Provision

I am writing to update you on some new and exciting changes to our Academy lunch provision that will take effect from 2nd September 2021.

I have been concerned for some time at the number of students who choose not to eat lunch due to our limited kitchen choices or their dietary restrictions. With the current system we have it is impossible to know if children are eating or not.

Children who do not eat will struggle to concentrate in their lessons and this will impact on their behaviour and progress.

I am also aware of the financial burden that our current arrangement places on families who have no other option than to pay for a school lunch, regardless of whether their child eats it.

Cashless Tills and Paying for Meals

From September, cashless biometric tills will be installed in the refectory. Students will be able to purchase a hot meal from the kitchen using either their biometric fingerprint or a pin code. No cash will be accepted. ParentPay will still be used for parents and carers to 'top up' their child's account and money will only be deducted if a student chooses to eat.

Biometric information

Further information regarding the biometric consent has been sent to parents on the 21st July. Parental consent is to be submitted via the following form by the **23rd August 2021**. Please find the attached consent letter for your information. We would never use biometric information without your permission.

[Use of Biometric Data – Consent Form](#)

Free School Meals

Students in receipt of free school meals will have their account automatically updated.

Options for Academy Meals

Our menu is published on the Academy website, a week in advance and our current provision supports a choice of either:

- a) A hot meat meal with a dessert (the meat is Halal)
- b) A hot vegetarian option with dessert
- c) A jacket potato with fillings with a dessert

We will be exploring a revision to the current provision over the next academic year to see how we can further increase/improve the choices for our students.

New for September 2021

In response to parent, carers and student feedback I am delighted to inform you that we will be allowing students to bring a (healthy) packed lunch to the Academy. Students will have the flexibility to purchase a hot meal if they wish or bring a packed lunch.

Please note the following item must not be brought into the Academy:

- Nuts (to safeguard those with allergies - we are a nut free school)
- Fizzy drinks and energy drinks
- Sweets and chocolate bars

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support during what has been a very challenging time for everyone.

Kindest regards
Clare Borrill

Headteacher