



The Petchey Academy

Inspiring & supporting every child

Headteacher: Clare Borrill BA (Hons) MEd, NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers

July 2021

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, 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 have an 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 their biometric fingerprint. 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.

What is a Biometric Fingerprint?

With parental consent, the student will have their index fingers scanned. From this scan, 120 points are identified and converted to a numerical code that is unique to each student at a particular school. The finger print is not recorded or saved in any way.

More information is available in our Biometric Information policy, published soon and a form to collect parental consent will be available in due course. **We would never use biometric information without your permission.**

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 meal with a dessert (the meat is Halal)
- b) A vegetarian hot option with dessert
- c) A jacket potato with cheese and/or beans and a dessert



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We are aware that this is quite limited and will be exploring over the next academic year how we can further increase the choices for our students. We are currently limited by the logistics of the kitchen space.

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 items **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**

We thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Clare Borrill
Headteacher