



RIDGEWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL

11th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

New Catering Partner

At Ridgewood, we know how important it is for students to have active, healthy lifestyles alongside a nutritious and balanced diet. These, in turn, help students engage well in their learning and make great progress. To support this, I am excited to report that, following an extensive tendering process by our Academy Trust, from after Easter, Ridgewood will have a new catering partner. They are called Alliance in Partnership (AiP) and work alongside several other schools nationally. AiP will oversee our food provision in school, which in the first instance will be the lunch service. We hope to widen this service to include a breakfast provision (before school) and a break time provision in the future.

New Menu

This change will include a new menu for our students. A copy of the new menu is attached for your information, and it would be useful for you to go through this with your child and talk about what food choices they might make in school. As you can see, the main meal of the day will be supplemented by a deli option including sandwiches, jacket potatoes and pasta. Prices are to be confirmed. Students who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive £2.60 per day.

Cashless Payment System

Later in the Summer term, we will move to having cashless payments for when students purchase their food. This will use a biometric fingerprint recognition system, which is both faster and safer than using cash. Parents and carers will be able to top-up their child's account using ParentPay, a system we have already established in school. Those children who have Free School Meals, will have their account automatically topped up each day. In order for your child to use the biometric fingerprint recognition system, you will have to provide consent.

You can do this using the consent form, here: <https://forms.office.com/e/804ai0BCEG>

Can I ask that this is done as quickly as possible so we can ensure that all systems are set up and working as soon as possible. I will write to you in the coming weeks advising of when students will have their fingerprints recorded, and when we expect our cashless system to go live. A copy of our trust policy on biometric information can be found on our website. You can view this here: <https://www.ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk/policies>

This details how we will use biometric information.

Allergy Notification

We already hold details of students who have food allergies in school. However, AiP would like to confirm this information for their records.



Headteacher – Mrs R. Cope. Acting Headteacher – Mr J. Cannon from 17/01/2024 (during Mrs Cope's absence)
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If your child has a food allergy, then please complete the special dietary needs form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/vrx3QCzM1w>

The biometric fingerprint system will then alert catering staff of allergies when students are purchasing food. I am sure you will agree that completing this accurately is of the utmost importance for the safety of our students.

You do not need to complete this form if your child does not have a food allergy, intolerance or other dietary-related medical condition.

All of this information will be stored securely in line with our privacy notice, which can be found on our website.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Of course, we know that not every student will have a school meal; students are welcome to bring their own packed lunch if they would prefer.

We have continued to make real strides in our lunch time arrangements in recent years. Students now eat with their year group, and lunch time is a calm, civilised experience where there is the chance to eat their food and socialise with friends. We are confident that this new partnership with AiP will continue this development further.

What do you need to do next?

- **Talk to your child/children about the new menu**, discussing what choices they may make when purchasing food.
- **Complete the biometric consent form providing your consent for AiP to use the biometric fingerprint recognition system** for your child to purchase food. Link can be found above.
- **If your child has a food allergy, please complete the special dietary needs form**. You do not need to return this form if your child does not have a food allergy. Link can be found above.
- Look out for an upcoming letter to let you know when ParentPay is ready to receive monies for your child's food at school.

I am sure you will agree that this will be a significant positive change for our school. Of course, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Mr James Cannon
Acting Headteacher