Hungerhill School
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27th July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we head into the summer holidays, I wanted to share some exciting news regarding the catering provision in our Trust schools.

Over the last few months, we have been working hard to source a new catering provision for our schools. We were aware that most of our schools had the same provider and wanted to be able to compare this across other providers in terms of food quality, food choice, and value for money for both parents and our schools.

We have followed a thorough tender process which saw bids from 8 providers submitted. These were then shortlisted and the final 3 were invited into school to present to staff and a selection of pupils. We also visited other settings where the providers currently provide meals service to see how they operate in a busy school dining room.

I am pleased to tell you that the Trust have now awarded the catering contract to Mellors who are a Yorkshire based company who cater for many schools both within Doncaster and further afield.

We are confident that our staff and students will see a marked difference in the provision from September. You will also see a presence from Mellors at various school functions including some parent's evenings. This will give you the opportunity to engage with them and see for yourself some of the menu choices. In our primary settings you may also see them on the school playground at the end of the school day asking for your views on meal provision. We are also delighted that the catering team will support schools with the development of the curriculum linking healthy eating, different cultures, and well being to our school meals provision.

Something which had previously been an issue for the Trust was that the previous catering providers levied different charges across our family of schools. We wanted this to change as

we felt that all of our primary school parents should pay the same amount for a meal for their child regardless of which school they attended. We have achieved this with Mellors and I am pleased to say that some schools will see a reduction in the price previously paid. From September 2022 the cost of a primary school meal will be £2.50 and the cost of a secondary 'meal deal' will remain at £2.50 with the option of additional items from a more varied menu if required.

In the current economic climate it is more important than ever that all of our students have the opportunity to access a choice of tasty and nutritious food at a cost which is affordable for those parents who pay for meals. **If you think that your child may be eligible for a free school meal please do contact your school office and they will be happy to support you in an application for this.**

Mellors are really excited about working with our Trust and we hope that the transition from one provider to another will be as seamless and trouble free as possible. We would however ask for your patience and understanding on the first few days of the new term as our new provider establish their systems within our school kitchens. Mellors will of course be keen to receive any feedback from yourselves – good or bad – to enable them to know what is working well for your children and what might still need some attention. Please do provide any feedback via your schools so that they are able to address any issues and build on any successes.

I will also take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, safe and restful summer. The return to school in the wake of the pandemic has been a challenge for all of us and we are incredibly proud of all that our pupils and staff have achieved during this time. We look forward to a new academic year where we will continue to catch up on the 'Covid Years'.

Yours sincerely

H. Redford-Hernandez

Helen Redford-Hernandez
Trust CEO