

Dear parent/carer,

As we are approaching the end of the school year, we are putting plans in place for changes to break and lunchtime to make the experience nicer for all students.

In order to ensure that these plans are viable, we will be doing a trial next week, commencing 17th July 2023. This will give us the opportunity to make any necessary changes and will also give the students the opportunity to get used to the new system.

The changes will be significant in places and we wanted to share our rationale with you all as to why we are implementing these.

One venue

Currently, we are using two venues for both break and lunchtime, the canteen and the main hall. As you can imagine, this can cause issues, as we are unable to use the hall for its intended purpose, therefore, the first of the changes to break and lunchtime will be that we will no longer be using the main hall as a break and lunch venue. All students will be using the main downstairs canteen. In order to facilitate this, we will need to put in place sittings for lunchtime for students to access the canteen (see more info below).

At lunchtime, we will be offering the students the opportunity to access more activities, which will include basketball, organised football games on the astro, sports in the sports hall. There will be a rotation for these, which students will have been advised in their form time about.

Students will also be able to access the library when they are not in the canteen.

Food choices

A significant change for students will be the food options available at breaktime. As of Monday 17th July, there will no longer be any hot food options available at breaktime. Hot food will only be available at lunchtime, where students can buy hot food during their sitting in the canteen. This will include both the main meal and also the grab and go options, such as pizza slices and pasta.

At breaktime, students will be able to buy pastries, including croissants, and cold items such as fruit and yoghurts. Drinks will also be available to purchase.

Whilst we know that this will be disappointing for many students, the reason that we are making this change is because we are finding that students are buying hot food at breaktime and then not eating at lunchtime, and this is causing them to be hungry and lethargic during the day. Additionally, as we will now have students inside for their whole canteen sitting, this will give them the opportunity to sit and eat their lunch in the canteen whilst still being able to have their playtime.

The changes will be as follows:

- At breaktime, all students in Years 7-9 wishing to buy breaktime food will go to the canteen. Any students not buying food will have access to the tennis courts, fields and quad areas. Students in Year 10, will use the outside food pod.

- For the trial next week, Year 10 will go to the 6th form cafe area to buy break food. The route for this has been shared with them.
- Students in Years 7 & 8 will be in the canteen for the first sitting at lunchtime. For the trial week next week, the timings of this will be **12.50-1.10pm**. All students will need to be in the canteen area for the whole of this sitting and then they will have the opportunity to go outside for playtime, or access the library (numbers depending)
- Students in Years 9 and 10 will be in the canteen for the second sitting. For the trial week next week, the timings for this will be **1.15-1.35pm**. All students will need to be in the canteen area for the whole of their sitting, so they will all need to come inside after their playtime and remain in the canteen.

Whilst we understand that some students will not want to be inside for their sitting and they would rather stay outside and play, we have created a system where all students will have the opportunity to play and eat and therefore, in order to make sure that all students have access to the sport activities and the library, all students must adhere to the sittings so that we can ensure that numbers are manageable and students all have the chance to take part. Giving the students the opportunity to sit and eat their lunch in the canteen area for their sitting, will give them the chance to sit with friends, socialise and have some “down time”, rather than just playing for the whole of the lunch session. We believe that this is a vital part of student development and we look forward to being able to share this experience with the students each day.

If you have any questions or concerns surrounding this, please do not hesitate to contact us and we would be happy to discuss your concerns.

Many thanks