



January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last five years, schools within Exceed Academies Trust have been receiving their school meals from either Mellors Catering or FM (part of Bradford Local Authority). As part of the Financial Regulations that all schools and academies follow, we have now had to re-tender this service. This ensures we are receiving value for money and the best food offer for our pupils.

Over the last three months, the Trust, supported by several of our schools, have carried out a robust procurement exercise and we are delighted to announce that Aspens have now been awarded the catering contract for an initial three-year period, which could be extended by a further two (subject to contractual requirements being met).

Aspens will commence catering activities from 12 February 2024, in the following schools, with most other schools in the Trust joining at a later date:

- Horton Park Primary
- Copthorne Primary
- Appleton Academy
- Harden Primary
- Cottingley Village Primary
- Baildon Glen Primary
- Holybrook Primary
- Cavendish Primary
- Knowleswood Primary

Please find links herein to the two Aspens newsletters for Primary and Secondary provision, outlining more details about their exciting food offer – [Primary Newsletter](#) / [Secondary Newsletter](#).

If you currently pay for your school meals via ParentPay, please note this service will not change and there will be no increase in the price of a school meal. If your child currently receives a special diet or has an allergy, you will shortly be receiving a form, which we would ask you to complete and return to school no later than 6 February 2024, so that provisions can be carried over from the current catering provider to Aspens, ensuring we look after the welfare of your child. You can also find a copy of the form on our website if you would like to download and return this to us immediately: [Alternative Menu Form](#)

If your circumstances have changed and you would like to check if your child now qualifies for free school meals, please contact our Parental Involvement Officer, Emily Chesterman, who will provide you with the relevant paperwork to complete. Free school meals are managed for the school by Bradford Council and we have no control over eligibility decisions, however, we can support you with the application process.

If you have any further questions relating to this change in service, please contact us via [info@appletonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@appletonacademy.co.uk) in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Duncan Jacques CBE  
Chief Executive Officer