



Our Lady and All Saints
Catholic Multi Academy Company
Strong in Faith

Date: 12 July 2024

Letter to Parents/Carers

New Catering Provider Approved for September 2024

We are pleased to announce, following a rigorous competitive tendering process, that Aspens Services Ltd have been selected as the new Catering provider across all of Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Multi-Academy Schools from 1st August 2024 – for further information take a look at their website via <https://www.aspens-services.co.uk/>.

For those parents/carers who have children at St Peter's Catholic Secondary School, you will already be familiar with Aspens Services Ltd. But for those who don't know anything about Aspens, they are a market leading catering company, specialising in food for the Education sector only. They share our values and ethos and understand our requirements to serve a variety of good quality food for all of our pupils, which is essential to their learning.

Pupils, parents and staff across the MAC took part in a Food Tasting Day in May 2024 with the 3 shortlisted contractors, where Aspens came out on top for variety and quality of food. OLAAS also worked with a number of students from Years 7, 8, 9 in a focus group, where pupils got to talk openly and honestly about current school meals and how they could be improved. They also got to meet shortlisted contractors to ask questions, to tell them what they liked/didn't like about their school meals and what they wanted to see more of. This all helped us to get the Pupils' views into the tendering process, so they were involved as much as possible.

We are really excited about working with Aspens and to know that 95% of all food will be prepared in our school kitchens, using locally sourced fresh ingredients, with crisp salads and freshly baked bread available to pupils on a daily basis.

We are now working behind the scenes to get everything ready for the new academic year, whilst also continuing to work with our current catering providers until the end of July 2024. We want to ensure we have a smooth transition, so will be using the months of July/August to ensure catering staff are trained, that menus are uploaded into ParentPay and that allergies are accurately recorded and managed.

You will find the following more information about Catering, on our OLAAS MAC website: <https://www.olaas.co.uk/catering/> as well as on your child's school website:

- a copy of this letter
- a newsletter from Aspens
- a parent information pack and QR codes
- a copy of the new menu's
- important information about allergy management, including a form for you to complete and return to your child's school.

The QR codes will take you to Aspens' website where you will find lots more information about the company, what they do and how they do it, so please do visit that when you get a chance.

We will also send you in the coming weeks, some essential information about how to order and pay for school meals in future through ParentPay.

In the meantime, we thought it would be helpful to let you know that the price of a school meal will be £2.70 from 1st September 2024. This price will be the same across all of our MAC schools. We understand that for some parents this may be slightly higher than you previously paid, but we hope you will see the benefits of this new catering provider. We are confident that your child will enjoy Aspens' school meals and we look forward to receiving your feedback in the Autumn term.

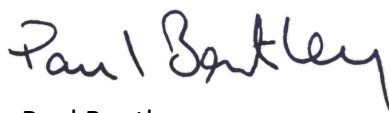
There will be many opportunities for pupils to take part in theme days and themes that link directly into the curriculum, as well as opportunities for parents to meet Aspens and more information about this will be available in the Autumn term.

We hope you and your families have a wonderful Summer and we look forward to welcoming all the pupils back in September, including our new Nursery, Reception, Year 7 and Sixth Form pupils. We will be arranging food tasting at Induction Days for new Reception pupils and Year 7 pupils going to St Peter's Secondary School, so look out for the dates for these.

Yours faithfully



Peter Davis
CSEL & CEO
Our Lady and All Saints
Catholic Multi-Academy Company



Paul Bentley
Chair of Directors