

Company No. 08445158

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20 June 2017

CHANGES TO CATERING FROM 1 AUGUST 2017

Pontefract Academies Trust has recently undertaken a procurement exercise for the provision of catering services in all its schools from 1 August 2017. We are pleased to announce that a company known as Chartwells has been selected as the preferred supplier. The Trust will now be spending a couple of weeks agreeing the particulars of the contract which will commence on the 1st August 2017.

Staff and student representatives from the Trust primary and secondary schools have been involved in the rigorous procurement and evaluation process.

The contract offers an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with Chartwells to ensure that all the Trust schools have a consistently high quality catering provision.

The Chartwells offer includes:

- Increased value added events and activities to promote healthy eating food and education across all schools;
- Creation of a dedicated Group Manager position and Development Chef position
- Opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships for secondary school pupils in the Compass group which Chartwells are part of;
- Tailored menus for those with special dietary requirements
- A Chartwells "family" approach to managing and developing staff.

The Trust primary schools have worked closely with ISS, the incumbent supplier, to ensure that the catering offer is compliant with food standards. In conjunction with ISS the primary schools have achieved the Bronze Food for Life standard. This standard will be maintained and built upon as Chartwells take over the catering service in August ready for the start of the new academic year.

The Trust secondary schools have managed their catering service in-house and have achieved relatively high uptake of their offer. Chartwells will aim to maintain this uptake whilst also improving the variety of healthy options and access points to the service.

We are pleased to confirm that the meal price for Primary Schools will remain at £2.00 for September 2017. We are currently working with Chartwells to develop a competitively priced menu for the secondary schools which will include a range of special offers and meal deals. In order to achieve consistency across all Trust Schools, Carleton Community High School will increase the charge for the existing "Meal Deal" (main course plus a dessert) to £2.00. The Free School Meal Allowance will be increased to reflect this.

Over the next few weeks we will be working with Chartwells to mobilise the contract and to ensure that a new menu is ready to launch at the start of the new academic year in September.

In line with Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (known as TUPE) all existing catering staff can choose to transfer to Chartwells on 1 August 2017. This will mean that they will be joining one of the county's leading catering providers with all their existing terms and conditions protected. Chartwells will be making arrangements to meet with all catering staff in the very near future, to explain more about themselves and their aims for our catering service and to answer any questions that staff may have.

We will keep you updated on progress and will publish further information about menus, special diet referral process and taster events on our schools websites.

Yours faithfully

David Wilkin
Vice Chair of Trustees