



## School Meals Times at Alder Grange School

As you can well imagine, meal times may be slightly more daunting at secondary school than they ever were at primary school – not least because there are far more mouths to feed in the available time. However we are sure that meal times will be a positive experience for your child, offering them a chance to socialise as well as take on ‘fuel’ to get them through the rest of the day.

The catering in school is provided by Lancashire County Commercial Services, who may well have been responsible for the catering at your child’s primary school. They offer catering before school, in the form of a breakfast service, at morning break time and during the school lunch period – with pupils being supervised either by school staff or a dedicated welfare team.

Pupils who live near to school can return home for lunch every day, by arrangement with the school, but this must be to return home daily – no pupils are allowed off site at lunchtime ‘to go down town’ until they reach Year 11. Pupils who normally prefer to bring a packed lunch may continue to do so. Pupils who want a school meal will immediately experience a greater range of options than they are likely to have had at primary school.

The school currently has three different service areas for food. In our ‘penthouse dining area’ situated at the top of the building, this is where packed lunches would normally be eaten. On the ground floor in the main dining room there are several service areas – offering hot snacks, ‘main meal’ type options or sandwiches. Pupils can choose to buy individual items or by choosing a ‘meal deal’ can get a complete meal at better value.

Purchases at all the catering facilities are made using a ‘cashless system’, no money is taken at the tills. All pupils will be issued with a PIN number when they arrive at the school, which can have credit securely added. From September 2015 we will be offering an online payment method for putting credit onto pupil meal accounts. Cheques will not be accepted but cash/notes will be possible, though for safety and security this is not the best option. Parents will be able to see online how much is being spent and what their child has been eating should they wish to monitor what is being purchased.

Pupils who are eligible for free school meals will have a daily allowance credited to their card at lunchtime. Parents/guardians of eligible pupils are reminded to renew their application during the summer term, by contacting the Pupil Access Team at the Area Education Office in Accrington (01254 220500).

A demonstration of the menus, prices, lunch system etc will have been available for both parents and pupils on the induction evening in July.