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Dear Parent/Carer

Shirebrook Academy is dedicated to ensuring all our students have access to fresh, nutritional and appetising meals when in school. Listening to our students, a new catering contract was awarded in 2020 to Mellors Catering Services, an award winning family business operating in over 330 sites across the North of England.

Unfortunately, for both the Academy and Mellors, the contract began at the start of the first national lockdown, a time when the majority of our students were being educated at home.

The past twelve months has proved challenging to us all in so many ways, including catering for over 800 students whilst adhering to the strict social distancing rules and guidelines imposed on serving food in educational settings. Ensuring year groups remain in their "bubbles" meant that the main serveries in school could not be opened and provisional food stations were set up offering a highly reduced menu.

This was also coupled with a requirement to use disposable trays and cutlery.

As we begin to slowly move out of the current national restrictions, The Academy is working closely with Mellors to reintroduce a more varied and wider menu for our students. This week, we saw the reopening of the main food counters and introduced an updated menu, a copy of which is available on the school website. Crockery and cutlery is also being reintroduced, a move away from the takeaway feel students have been experiencing.

We are fortunate to have a highly experienced and dedicated chef manager on site, who is as committed as the Academy in ensuring our students receive a healthy meal at lunchtime. Whilst it is not always easy to cater to everyone needs, the catering manager and her team listen to feedback from students and act wherever they can. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete the recent catering survey found on the Academy website under catering.

With an end to restrictions in site, Mellors Catering have many exciting events in store for students and whilst the Academy and Mellors accept that the current situation has not been ideal, things will continue to improve.

Yours sincerely



Mr Cottingham
Principal



AIMQUALIFICATIONS

