

22nd April 2021

Dear Parents of Year 6 Students

We are looking forward to meeting our new Year 7 students as soon as we are permitted to run our usual Transition Day. This will be a great opportunity for your children to meet their form tutor and experience a little bit of life at The Abbey School, including enjoying a free Abbey School lunch in our dining hall.

At The Abbey School, we believe in developing the whole child in addition to their academic skills, and lunch is the perfect time to teach our children how to be kind and helpful towards each other and encourage good table manners. We introduced 'Family Lunch' in September to promote a canteen culture where pupils sit together at tables and clean up after each other and demonstrate kindness and a sense of responsibility. Sample menus will be shared with you in the Induction Pack which will be sent out shortly by the Head of Year 7, Mrs Carney.

From September 2021, we had proposed limiting the lunch option to a cooked meal only to ensure all our students were eating a healthy and nutritious diet. However, having considered the views of parents who have kindly taken the time to write to me on this matter, we have decided we will continue to offer the option of bringing in a packed lunch for the time being. In addition to this, we appreciate that Covid-19 has put financial pressures on many parents and we would not wish to exacerbate this. We would, however, encourage parents to ensure their child has as healthy and balanced a lunch as possible. Recommendations for food and drink brought into school would include at least one portion of fruit and vegetables, meat, fish or other source of protein; starchy food such as bread, pasta or rice; a dairy item such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, and water or juice.

For a long time we have been disappointed with the choices that students make with regards to their midday meal and would wish to discourage students from bringing in chocolate bars, crisps, cakes and biscuits as their main lunch; we do appreciate that these are popular items but ideally could be included as part of a balanced meal.

We will continue to review family lunch proposals for next year but will consult with our parents and students should any further alterations be considered.

Yours sincerely



Dr R Speller
Headteacher