

### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you regarding the school meals service at George Stephenson High School. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, nutritious meals for our students, we are delighted to announce that Aspens will be our new catering provider, starting 1st January 2025.

Aspens is renowned for delivering delicious, well-balanced meals, and they have a proven track record in creating menus that meet the needs and preferences of students while prioritising health and sustainability. We believe Aspens will be a wonderful addition to our school community, and we are confident they will enhance the dining experience for all our students.

# What does this mean for your child?

- Variety and Quality: Aspens offers a wide range of meals, including vegetarian, vegan, and allergy-friendly options, designed to appeal to students' tastes and provide the nutrition they need to thrive throughout the school day.
- **Sustainability:** Aspens focuses on sourcing ingredients responsibly, with an emphasis on fresh, seasonal produce.
- **Healthy Choices:** The menus are carefully balanced to ensure that every meal contributes to the healthy development of our students.

Aspens will provide free porridge at morning break. Please be aware that charges for "toppings" will apply if the student requests them. Only the porridge is free.

### Where can you find more information?

For more details about Aspens, including their menu options and the school meals process, please visit our school website (<a href="www.gshs.org.uk">www.gshs.org.uk</a>). We will be regularly updating this page to keep you informed of any developments.

#### Students' Cashless Accounts:

Your child's account balance will transfer from Mellors to Aspens in a hopefully seamless process. If you have any enquiries about the cashless balance, please email the school at *enquiries@gshs.org.uk*, and a staff member will assist you.

For topping up the account, there will be no changes to the process parents currently undertake. All top-ups after 4pm on Friday, 20th December 2024, will automatically be directed to the new provider account – Aspens.

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Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

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Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)

## Allergens:

Aspens are committed to supporting students with allergies. Please take some time to check out the allergens letter on our website. Additionally, parents can access and complete the "Alternative Menu Form" for Allergy & Lifestyle Notification and Medical Diet Requests.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to Mellors, our current catering provider, for their dedicated service over the past three years. We are grateful for the positive contribution they have made to our school community.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the upcoming change, please don't hesitate to contact us or visit the website. We look forward to this exciting new chapter with Aspens and are confident that they will continue to provide an outstanding service to our school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards

**A. Emmerson** School Business Leader