

8 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

REVISED LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

I hope that you are well. I am writing with regard to some important changes that we are making to lunchtime arrangements at The Ruth Gorse Academy.

We are blessed with a superb, modern school building, but external and social space for our students is limited. We have a growing population that will eventually reach 1260 in 2021 and this will inevitably lead to pressures in terms of catering and space for our young people in which to socialise. During days when weather is poor, the atrium and canteen areas can be very crowded and as our students grow and mature, space becomes more of an issue for us.

During the next academic year (2018/19) we will have our full complement of year groups and it seems timely to begin to move towards what we consider to be the best solution to both space limitations and catering.

We are therefore proposing to move to a split-lunchtime structure from Monday 19 February.

**Years 7 & 8 will go for their lunch between 12.05pm and 12.45pm and
Years 9 & 10 will go for their lunch between 1.05pm and 1.45pm** (as is currently the case).

This will entail very little disruption to the students, but will have the immediate impact of reducing numbers of students in the canteen and atrium at lunchtime and also create more available space for them at these times.

It is important to stress that the staffing and supervision of these times will be maintained with a high staff presence in all areas to ensure that we can continue to operate a safe environment for our students. There may be some changes to lunchtime activities that will inevitably be affected by the availability of teachers. We will, however, continue to plan for as many stimulating and educational activities and sports as possible to maintain our high levels of enrichment.

Should you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

David Craine

Associate Principal