



1 April 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Sixth Form Café

The Reasons for the Café Project

Parents will be aware that, for some years now, we have been feeding 1,000 people a day in a facility designed to seat approximately 120 pupils. As a consequence of this we have had long queuing times, an increase in the amount of 'grab and go' food on offer, and some challenging demands being placed upon our much-valued Catering team. None of this has been any easier as the School population has grown in recent years.

The Sixth Form Café plans are intended to alleviate some of the existing pressure on the current dining arrangements. Sixth Formers will be able to purchase their break time snacks, and their lunch, at a time that suits them. Given the study periods they have, there is clearly some flexibility on their timetables which is not available to pupils in other parts of the School. Our investment in this new facility will not only considerably improve the Sixth Form experience, it will also potentially remove 200 to 300 students from the main Dining Hall and improve the quality of experience there at the same time.

The funding for the project is almost entirely coming from the fund, recently promoted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for small capital projects within Schools. We are, however, also delighted by the considerable assistance we have received from one or two parents with practical experience in this area. Without their help and professional expertise, the project would simply not have been possible. Please be assured that the regular donations from parents, for which we are also immensely grateful, are *not* going to be used for this project.

Your Help in Encouraging Interested Parties to Get in Touch

We have been very pleased with the good number of expressions of interest that we have already received regarding the Sixth Form Café but we would like your help, please, in sharing the opportunity as widely as you possibly can prior to moving to the formal tendering process. That will mean that we have the very *best* field from which to choose those who will be charged with providing for the food needs of the Sixth Form.

Shortly before we break up for Easter I shall circulate to parents the key dates by which tender packs will be available and the date by which tenders will need to be submitted.

Do, please, draw this exciting opportunity to the attention of anyone who you feel may want to share in the excitement of the project.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Ayling
Headteacher