

2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Subject: Exciting Changes to Catering and Lunchtime Services at Gracewood Academy

Since joining Gracewood Academy, I have taken a keen interest in the lunchtime experience provided for our students. I believe strongly that every child deserves access to a nutritious, filling and affordable lunch that supports their learning, wellbeing and enjoyment of school.

For this reason, I am delighted to share that, following the October half-term break, we will be moving to a new catering provider, **Cucina**.

This is an exciting step forward for the academy and one that we believe will significantly improve the lunchtime experience for our students. Through our partnership with Cucina, students will benefit from:

- A wider range of meal options and choices.
- Faster and more efficient service.
- More time to eat, socialise and relax during lunchtime.
- High-quality, nutritious meals that offer excellent value for money.
- A refreshed and enhanced salad bar, available free of charge to students.

We are also pleased to share that, as part of this investment in Gracewood Academy, Cucina will be making improvements to our canteen facilities. This will include additional serving points and increased serving space, helping to reduce queues and speed up service for students. This represents a significant investment in our school and will ensure that more students can access food quickly, spend less time waiting and have more time to enjoy their lunch break with friends. Combined with the new menu offer and refreshed salad bar, these improvements will create a more positive lunchtime experience for all students.

We know that lunchtime is an important part of the school day and want to ensure students have both the time and opportunity to enjoy healthy food in a positive and enjoyable environment.

Please find below some sample menus from Cucina, which provide a flavour of the variety and quality of food that students will be able to enjoy. As you will see from the menus, meal deals are all £2.90 and include a dessert of the day or a bottle of water. Children in receipt of Free School Meals can have any of the 5 meal deals or any product £2.90 or below.

Moving to a Faster Cashless System

As part of our ongoing review of lunchtime systems, we have also reflected on the payment arrangements introduced earlier this year.

Whilst the lanyard card system has worked in many respects, it has proved slower than anticipated and has contributed to delays in lunch queues. We do not want payment systems to compromise students' breaktimes or lunchtime and reduce the time available for eating, relaxing and socialising.

For this reason, alongside our move to Cucina, we will be introducing a **cashless biometric fingerprint payment system**.

Importantly, this change will not affect how parents add money to their child's account. Families will continue to top up lunch accounts in exactly the same way they do now. However, the new system will bring several benefits:

- Faster payment processing and shorter queues.
- More efficient service at break and lunchtime.
- Students will be able to independently check their account balance throughout the day.
- Greater awareness of available funds and spending.
- Fewer issues caused by forgotten cards or lanyards.
- More time to enjoy lunch and spend time with friends.

The system works by converting a scan of a student's fingerprint into a unique mathematical code. No fingerprint image is stored and the information cannot be used for any purpose other than the academy's cashless catering system.

We will begin enrolling students onto the system during the final week of this half-term. To do this, we require **parental consent**.

Parental Consent

As part of a planned update to our school catering till system, we are reviewing and ensuring that all parental consent records are accurate and up to date. This includes consent relating to the use of biometric data within the catering service.

How does the biometric recognition work?

To register on the system the student places their finger on the fingerprint reader. The system reads certain key measurements from the finger and converts these into a unique number with over 100 digits. This number is stored on the system on the student's account. It is important to note that no image of a fingerprint is stored, only the unique number. This number cannot be converted back to any measurements or fingerprint image.

Instead of paying cash at the till, the student accesses their account by placing their finger on a reader which brings up their photo and account balance on the cashier's screen. This system speeds up the food service and reduces the risk of loss or theft of cash, and bullying associated with cash. It also allows parents greater control to ensure the student spends their money on school lunches.

What will the personal data held in the system be used for?

The data will only be used for the implementation and operation of the cashless catering system. Data will not be passed to third parties except where necessary for the implementation of the system. Data will be deleted from the system when a student leaves the Academy.

Do I need to give consent to the processing of data?

Most of the data used in the operation of the cashless system is already held by the Academy and has been provided by the parent/guardians or student e.g. name, tutor group, free school meal entitlement. Biometric data is the only new information that is required for the operation of the cashless system. Consent must be obtained via MCAS before the data is taken from the student and used. This applies to all students in schools and colleges under the age of 13. If a student or parent wishes, they can withhold consent, in such circumstances a code will be issued which can be used to top up and access the student's account in the same way as using the student's finger.

If you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, this must be done in writing and sent to the Academy. Once the student ceases to use the biometric recognition system, their biometric information will be securely deleted by the Academy.

To ensure we have the correct permissions recorded, we ask that all parents/carers:

1. Log in to MCAS.
2. Navigate to the Parental Consents section.
3. Review all consent options carefully.
4. Confirm or update your choices as required, paying particular attention to the Biometric Data Consent.

We would be grateful if you could complete this review by 12th October to help ensure a smooth transition to the updated catering system.

If you experience any difficulties accessing MCAS or have any questions regarding the use of biometric data within the catering service, please contact the school office.

Looking Ahead

We are genuinely excited about these improvements and believe they will deliver a significantly better lunchtime experience for our students. The move to Cucina reflects our commitment to ensuring that every child has access to nutritious food, efficient service and a positive lunchtime experience that supports both their wellbeing and learning.

This investment reflects our wider ambition for Gracewood Academy. We want students to feel proud of their school experience, and that includes ensuring that lunchtime is a positive part of every day. Better food, improved facilities, quicker service and more choice will all contribute to an environment where students can thrive.

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to improve the provision available to our young people.
Yours sincerely,



Ms Georgina Charles

Principal
Gracewood Academy



TARIFF SEPTEMBER 2026

Cucina IFG

BREAKFAST	PRICE	HOMEBAKES	PRICE
Breakfast Roll	£1.60	Muffins	£1.45
Mini Breakfast Baguette	£1.60	Small Cakes/Cookies	£1.15
Breakfast Pot – 3 Piece	£2.30	Cookies/Brownie	£1.45
Bagel	£2.75	Traybakes	£1.45
Toast with Butter or Jam	£0.40	HOT GRAB & GO	
Homemade Pancakes with Fruit Toppings	£1.45	Bagel	£3.00
Toasted Teacake	£1.45	Panini – Half/Whole	£1.60/£2.90
Cereal + Milk 8oz	£1.05	Toastie – Whole	£3.20
Porridge for Students	Free	French Toast	£1.45
Porridge for Staff	£1.05	Twister	£3.00
Porridge Toppings	£0.50	Chicken Wings	£2.45
COLD GRAB & GO		Hot Pasta Pot – Medium/Large	£2.05/£2.60
Chill Deal Roll	£1.50	Pizza Slice (Break Time)	£1.70
Deli Sub Roll	£2.40	Giant Sausage Roll	£2.20
Wrap	£2.95	Soups & Broths	£1.90
Premium Salads	£3.00	Quesadilla	£1.45
Whole Sandwiches	£2.40	Jacket Potato – 1 Topping	£2.25
Half Baguette	£1.60	ALL POWER BITES	
Cold Pasta Pot – 16oz	£2.60	Range of Nutritious Rice & Noodle Dishes	£1.45
Houmous & Vegetable Crudites	£1.70		
Protein Pots	£1.00		
Salad Pots	£2.00		
Jelly/Yoghurt/Fruit Pots	£1.00		
Whole Fruit	£0.55		

VAT on hot food and beverages will be charged at the current rate for all staff members

TARIFF SEPTEMBER 2026

Cucina IFG

DRINKS	PRICE	BREAKFAST	PRICE
Water 500ml	£1.20	Breakfast Roll	£1.60
Fruit Slush	£1.50	Mini Breakfast Baguette	£1.60
Capri Sun	£1.35	Breakfast Pot – 3 Piece	£2.30
Dalston Cans	£1.50	Bagel	£2.75
Radnor 200ml Carton	£1.20	Toast with Butter or Jam	£0.40
Milk/Flavoured Carton	£1.20	Homemade Pancakes with Fruit Toppings	£1.45
HOMEBAKES		Toasted Teacake	£1.45
Muffins	£1.45	Cereal + Milk 8oz	£1.05
Small Cakes/Cookies	£1.15	Porridge for Students	Free
Cookies/Brownie	£1.45	Porridge for Staff	£1.05
Traybakes	£1.45	Porridge Toppings	£0.50
HOT GRAB & GO		COLD GRAB & GO	
Bagel	£3.00	Chill Deal Roll	£1.50
Panini – Half/Whole	£1.60/£2.90	Deli Sub Roll	£2.40
Toastie – Whole	£3.20	Wrap	£2.95
French Toast	£1.45	Premium Salads	£3.00
Twister	£3.00	Whole Sandwiches	£2.40
Chicken Wings	£2.45	Half Baguette	£1.60
Hot Pasta Pot – Medium/Large	£2.05/£2.60	Cold Pasta Pot – 16oz	£2.60
Pizza Slice (Break Time)	£1.70	Houmous & Vegetable Crudites	£1.70
Giant Sausage Roll	£2.20	Protein Pots	£1.00
Soups & Broths	£1.90	Salad Pots	£2.00
Quesadilla	£1.45	Jelly/Yoghurt/Fruit Pots	£1.00
Jacket Potato – 1 Topping	£2.25	Whole Fruit	£0.55
ALL POWER BITES			
Range of Nutritious Rice & Noodle Dishes	£1.45		

VAT on hot food and beverages will be charged at the current rate for all staff members



WEEK 1 Cucina

Week Commencing;
07/09/26 28/09/26 19/10/26

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Beef & Lentil Bolognese with Pasta & House Salad

TUESDAY

Bang Bang Chicken with Soy & Mixed Rice

WEDNESDAY

Glazed Gammon or Lemon & Thyme Roast Chicken, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Tikka & Chickpea Masala, Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad

FRIDAY

Chip Shop 'Fryday' Fish, Salmon Fishcake or Pizza with Chips, Peas & Tartare Sauce

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Plant Based Bolognese with Pasta & House Salad (V)

TUESDAY

Bang Bang Eat Curious with Soy & Mixed Rice (V)

WEDNESDAY

Vegetable 'Squashage' Roll with Crispy Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy (V)

THURSDAY

Cauliflower, Courgette & Chickpea Rosti with Braised Rice, Kachumber Salad & Minted Yoghurt Dressing (V)

FRIDAY

Vegan Chickpea & Coriander Burger with Fries (VE)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Spiced Pineapple Cake

TUESDAY

Chocolate & Banana Brownie

WEDNESDAY

Sticky Ginger Cake

THURSDAY

Oaty Apple Crumble

FRIDAY

Hot Chocolate Rocky Road & Custard

Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES

Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily



MADE
YOUR
WAY!

CHOOSE IT!
ADD IT!
TOP IT!

Switch up your flavours with our street food-inspired range, available Tuesday to Thursday. With weekly rotating choices, there's always something tasty.

Choose a base, add protein, and top it your way!

Visit the restaurant to check out what's on offer each week

NATURally

MONDAY

Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)

TUESDAY

The Big Plant Burger (VE)

WEDNESDAY

Roasted Butternut, Sweetcorn & Chipotle Pasta (VE)

THURSDAY

Maple & Chilli Cauliflower Wings with Cajun Wedges (VE)

FRIDAY

Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY

Pasta in Cheese Sauce

TUESDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

WEDNESDAY

Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

THURSDAY

Creamy Pesto Pasta

FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza



MADE
YOUR
WAY!

Only
&

CHOOSE IT!

PINEAPPLE SLAW *OPTIONAL

REGGAE CHICKEN

ADD IT!

TOP IT!

HOT SAUCE,
MINTED YOGHURT DRESSING OR
SPICY STICKY MANGO SAUCE

SPICY POTATO
WEDGES

RICE 'N' PEAS

CAULIFLOWER
JERK BITES

JERK PULLED PORK

Created by
Street Vibes



MADE
YOUR
WAY!



CHOOSE IT!

Perinase Slow *OPTIONAL

HOT PERI PERI
CHICKEN

Spiced
Wedges

Macho Rice
'n' Peas

PERI PERI
QUORN STRIPS

ADD IT!

Lemon & Herb
Chicken

TOP IT!

PERI PERI SAUCE,
GARLIC YOGHURT DRESSING
OR PERINASE

Created by
Street Vibes