



17 May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Restrictions in place in the run up to the elections have meant that I have been unable to write to you about the menu changes in the school until now. Let me address some of the issues:

- This is not my decision, nor a school decision/school canteen decision. The Scottish Government have changed their instructions around what is to be served in terms of food in schools and each council puts that in place
- The school has vegetarian/vegan options – rightly so, but no-one is forced to take these options. Meat is still on the menu every day – pupils still have choice
- The main change is to hot rolls at morning interval. We can now only do the previous hot roll selection twice a week, with alternatives on the other three days

These menu changes are now in place in every school in Dumfries & Galloway, not just Lockerbie Academy. Our Parent/Carer Council has been very quick to write to the Director of Education about this, specifically asking why there wasn't clear communication to parents about this earlier and we continue that discussion to see if we can find any compromise on the offer at morning break. Later this week, members of the Council's catering team, the catering supervisor here at Lockerbie and School Pupil Voice Representatives will meet to discuss all this and look for solutions.

The Council page – <https://dumgal.gov.uk> has a link called "School meal menus" as one of their most read pages. If you click that link you can find the "Globetrotter secondary school menu from May 2021". In this three week rotating menu, you will see hot and cold meat options on offer for lunch every single day.

I am very worried about pupils in S1-S3 leaving school grounds at lunchtime. A number of Parents/Carers have written to say they want their son/daughter to be allowed to do this. Equally, I have been contacted by a number of parents who are not happy that pupils are leaving school grounds at lunch time and want things to return to the way they were. Since before I started at the Academy in June 2014, it was the case that S1-S3 stayed on site and once they reached S4, the privilege was theirs to "go down the street". Within the past two weeks since this started, I have had a significant number of complaints from the public, local community and shop owners about the volume of pupils at lunchtime, specifically:

- Walking in large groups
- No social distancing (following government guidance) as they should when in the community
- Spilling off the pavement onto the road, some wandering in the middle of the road, or stepping off the pavement, almost in front of motorists (feedback from some motorists to this effect)
- Not giving way/making allowances for the general public who may be out and about and need past them
- Huge queues in some of our local shops and businesses

My main concern is their safety. There are only so many shops, pavements are only the width they are and I fear there may be an accident if we cannot reduce the numbers of pupils in the Town at lunch time. For this reason, I intend to re-instate the previous rules. We intend to change timetable in a few weeks' time, so all pupils will roll up the school into the next year group as of Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June. As normal then, current S3 pupils will become S4 and have the usual privilege along with all previous S4 pupils to "go down the street". However, from the start of the new timetable, all new S3 (current S2) and new S2 (current S1) will stay on campus at lunchtime as before.

Whilst I have a letter I'm sending, I want to remind everyone about the arrangements for collecting pupils from school. No pupil is permitted to leave school without signing out at the office. This means the parent/carer will have contacted us to say this is necessary, given us the relevant reason and the pupil will be called to the office to sign out. This is the only way we can ensure accurate attendance and pupil safety. We are working hard to help pupils get out of the habit of having their phone in their hand all the time – these should be in school bags unless the teacher has asked for them to be used to help their lesson. If they want to contact you or if you want to contact them, this must happen via the school office.

This has been and still is a very difficult time for everyone, especially so when I have had to wait to write to you about something which concerned so many of you. Those who contacted me direct, I was able to talk to and explain the situation and in many cases, this led to a decision that pupils would remain in school for lunch.

I am grateful for your patience and I ask for your continued support. I have the full support of Lockerbie Academy Parents & Carers Council (LAPCC) in writing this to you. Their contact details if you wish to get in touch with them are: [contactLAPCC@gmail.com](mailto:contactLAPCC@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely



Mr Brian Asher  
Head Teacher