

Hertfordshire Catering has always endeavoured to provide a suitable meal to pupils with specific dietary needs including allergies and intolerances. We feel that it is important for all pupils to be included in the school lunch experience if they choose to do so.

In the past we have gone to great lengths to inform parents about the trace allergens in foods and have given them the option to exclude products containing trace allergen warnings from their child's menu. For example this is where a product may declare that it "may contain traces of dairy" even though it does not contain dairy as an ingredient. This is usually added to packaging where there may have been a risk of cross contamination during production.

As of 1st April 2012 we will not be providing this information and instead will just say that **all the meals we serve may contain traces of allergens**. This is because there is also a risk of cross contamination in our kitchens and therefore it would be wrong to suggest that some foods are free from the risk of contaminates.

The only exception to this is with regard to nuts. Since we do not use nuts as an ingredient we can say that our dishes are nut free and that we do not offer any product that contains nuts or nut traces. We will never offer a total guarantee but we do everything reasonable to support this policy.

At the same time we are also changing the way we communicate new allergen free menus to parents. We would like to be able to gather email addresses of parents who currently have an arrangement with Hertfordshire Catering to provide an allergen free menu to their child, to enable us to instantly communicate any changes to them.

If you are happy to do this would you please complete the details below and return to your child's school where the information will be passed to Hertfordshire Catering Head Office.

Please note that we are unable to provide an allergen free menu without prior arrangement which includes the provision of medical evidence. For further information please ask your school.

Name..... Name of child.....

Name of School..... Town/Village.....

Email address.....

If you not happy or able to provide an email address please provide a postal address however this may delay our communications to you.....

