

6 July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

During terms 5 and 6 we have been talking with staff, students and parents/carers about returning to a single lunchtime from September 2026.

Thank you for taking time to share your feedback. Feedback from all stakeholders has allowed us to refine some details further to ensure we fully harness all the benefits of a single lunch model. The school will return to a single lunchtime from September 2026.

The change has been considered for three main reasons.

1. Strengthening belonging and community

A single lunchtime will help us build a more connected, inclusive school community.

- **Support friendships across year groups** by giving pupils more opportunities to socialise, develop confidence and strengthen peer mentoring beyond our current morning registration model.
- **Maximise lunchtime clubs and activities** through one central timetable and club hub, encouraging wider participation, especially as over half of our students travel by bus and cannot stay after school.
- **Create shared social spaces** in areas such as the old sixth form common room, MFL foyer, English social area and Lecture Theatre, where pupils can relax, play games or spend time with friends.
- **Enable whole school events** such as charity days and “Fun Fix Friday” to run weekly, with full participation and no disruption to learning.

2. Creating calm, consistent routines that support positive behaviour and wellbeing

A single lunchtime will help us establish clear expectations and a safe, calm environment for all pupils.

- **Embed predictable routines** that help pupils feel secure and supported during break and lunchtime.
- **Build structured opportunities for restorative conversations** so pupils can repair relationships and move forward positively.
- **Introduce a clear, centralised detention system** that is fair, consistent and easy for pupils to understand, reinforcing our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience.

- **Establish shared 'community rules'** developed with Head Students, House Leaders and tutor representatives to support an inclusive, opportunity-rich environment.
- **Strengthen supervision across the site** to maintain a safe, calm atmosphere for all children.

3. Supporting stronger academic outcomes

A single lunchtime will help pupils make even better progress.

- **Reduce pinch points around the school**, supporting smoother transitions and prompt starts to lessons.
- **Protect curriculum learning time** - no lessons would be affected by the change.
- **Provide a daily homework club** offering a quiet, supported space for pupils to complete work.
- **Offer a centralised Engage space** for pupils who benefit from additional structure or support at lunchtime.
- **Enable structured revision drop ins** for exam groups and for pupils who need catchup or consolidation.

With the planned changes, on balance, we believe the new structure will provide an improved experience for students with a single model for wet and dry lunchtimes. With greater enrichment opportunities and multiple new spaces being developed across our school site, we believe this will allow us to retain a calm and productive environment during lunchtime.

We understand that not everyone will agree with every aspect of this decision, but we hope we have made it clear our ambition has been to provide an enhanced environment and offer for students each day.

At the bottom of this letter you will find some further information about the decision, the adjustments we are making, along with responses to the main themes raised within the parent/carers feedback.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

St Katherine's School, Ham Green, North Somerset, BS20 0HU

T: 01275 373737 E: school@skdrive.org www.stkaths.org.uk

 St Katherine's School  @stkathsschool

1. Will there be enough time for everyone to get lunch?

Although there will be one lunchtime between 12:20 and 13:05, the canteen will continue to operate in two sittings:

First sitting: Years 7, 8 & 11 1220-1240

Second sitting: Years 9 & 10 1240-1300

Sixth Form: Can eat throughout

Unlike the current system, students will not queue in the canteen. Instead, they will sit with their friends before being invited to the servery in table groups. This removes long, standing queues, provides good access to all the food across the servery and allows students to enjoy their lunch together.

The canteen will primarily serve the main meal, pasta and salads.

Students wanting a quicker option can purchase more 'grab and go'-based food from the foodpod in the centre of school.

2. Will there be enough food available?

Yes. The catering team has planned for the new lunchtime arrangements and will continue to provide a full range of food throughout lunch. Each sitting will have access to the main canteen, the foodpod, and new seating areas across the site, including three canopy areas for adverse weather.

Providing multiple locations reduces pressure on any one area and gives students more choice and a calmer environment.

3. Won't the school feel overcrowded?

One of the reasons we have delayed moving back to a single lunch until now is because we wanted to ensure we had developed sufficient space across the school.

Alongside our existing spaces, we are introducing significant additional seating where students can eat, multiple social areas and a Club Hub within the English block.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • English | 32 seats |
| • MFL | 32 seats |
| • New Foodpod canopy | 42 seats |
| • Terrace canopy | 24 seats |
| • Food Room canopy | 24 seats |
| • Room 57 (Year 7) | 80 seats |
| • Additional seating in the canteen | 24 seats |

- CR3 (Year 11 workspace) 32 seats
- CR2 Homework Club 32 seats
- Lecture Theatre clubs
- English Club Hub in each room - full club list to be shared in September
- Sports clubs
- Bottom and top courts
- Top and Bottom fields

Students will continue to have access to multiple outdoor areas throughout dry and wet lunchtimes. Our aim is to spread students across a wide range of locations rather than everyone gathering in one place.

4. What happens if it rains?

One of the advantages of the new model is that the arrangements for wet and dry lunches will be the same.

Rather than changing routines on wet weather days, students will have access to a wide range of indoor and covered spaces every day, making lunchtime more predictable for staff and students, reducing unnecessary movement around the site.

The new foodpod canopy will provide additional sheltered outdoor seating along with the two existing canopies which will have new seating.

5. My child enjoys clubs. Will they still have time to eat?

Yes. Students can choose to:

- eat in the canteen
- collect food from the foodpod
- bring a packed lunch

This flexibility allows students to balance eating with attending clubs and activities.

We will continue to monitor participation and timings to ensure students can access both lunch and enrichment opportunities.

6. Will there be enough lunchtime clubs?

Yes. A single lunchtime actually increases enrichment opportunities to run clubs with all students and staff available at the same time.

We will continue to develop our lunchtime enrichment programme, seeking feedback from students about the clubs and activities they would like to join.

We will be expanding our peer mentoring programme based on the success of the Peer Assisted Study Sessions this year.

7. How will you support students who find busy environments difficult?

We recognise that some students, including those with SEND or additional needs, may benefit from quieter spaces.

Alongside the increased number of seating areas, students will continue to have access to quieter indoor spaces where appropriate in and around the Inclusion Base. Staff will continue to work closely with individual students who require additional support to ensure lunchtime remains a positive experience.

Having a consistent lunchtime routine every day, rather than changing arrangements depending on the weather, will also provide greater predictability for many students.

8. Will younger students feel safe with older students?

One of the strengths of a single lunchtime is the opportunity to build a stronger whole school community.

Staff supervision will continue across the site in all areas. House Leaders have been drafting our 'SKA Community Rules' to ensure there are clear expectations for all at lunchtime and breaktime, capturing our responsibilities as individuals. Our experience shows that older students are often excellent role models for younger pupils, and we want to encourage those positive interactions.

We will continue to monitor behaviour closely throughout the transition back to a single lunchtime..

9. What about toilets?

We are accelerating our toilet refurbishment programme, including some new additional toilets for September. This remains a priority and we will continue our programme of toilet refurbishment throughout next year.

In addition:

- toilet supplies will be checked and replenished before each lunchtime
- Duty staff will be located in the vicinity of the toilet block areas
- standards of cleanliness and maintenance will continue to be monitored

10. Will the library still be available?

Yes. The library remains an important part of school life. Students will continue to have access to both the library and the adjoining library classroom, before school, at breaktime, throughout lunchtime and after school.

12. How will you know if the new system is working?

We will carefully monitor the new arrangements throughout the autumn term. This will include gathering feedback from students, parents and staff, alongside reviewing practical measures such as catering, seating, behaviour, club participation and supervision.

As with any significant change, we will continue to refine our arrangements to ensure lunchtime provides the best possible experience for all students at St Katherine's.