

Your Child's **New Food Journey** Awaits...

Hi, we're HCL, your schools new lunch provider.

We're passionate about food and believe in providing a balance of healthy and delicious meals for children to enjoy at lunchtime. We have a team of Nutritionists, Chefs and Menu Coordinators who work hard to ensure lunchtimes are tasty and nutritious.

Each dish we create includes quality ingredients that contribute to providing a balanced diet and promote good health. Having a healthy, nutritious, and tasty meal at lunchtime gives children the 'fuel' they need to learn and grow.

In this welcome pack you'll find more information on our **menu offering**, **food accreditations**, and the **benefits of a school lunch**. You'll also find out whether your child qualifies for a **free school meal**, what to do if your child has an **allergy** or requires a **special diet**, and **how to easily register and order** your child's school meals.

We hope your child enjoys our school meals just as much as we enjoy making them.

From the HCL Team

Join us at our next Parent Taster

If you're interested in chatting to our team, and trying some of the meals we offer, then join us for our next Parent Taster Event on:

Our mission goes beyond delivering meals; we're dedicated to creating exceptional dining experiences to pupils that cater to the diverse needs of all our schools.

We'd love to hear your feedback and answer any questions you may have.



@hclcatering

www.hcl.co.uk

HCL Registered Office: Mundells,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire,
AL7 1FT | **T: 01707 938625**



Choosing School Meals Feeding Healthy Minds



The Benefits of a School Lunch

As your child's school lunch provider, we aim to make lunchtime an enjoyable experience for pupils, that's why our team of food developers and nutritionists work hard to create meals that are both tasty and nutritious.

Our menus offer a wide variety of healthy main meal choices. We are fully compliant with the **Government's Food Based Standards**, our main menu is **Bronze Food for Life accredited**, and our desserts are **SUGARWISE platinum accredited**.



There are many benefits to having a cooked school lunch, including:

- Nutritious meals full of energy-fuelling ingredients, lead to a better learning environment.
- At least one portion of fruit and vegetables in every serving.
- Confidence that all meals meet nutritional standards.
- Convenient for Parents and Carers.

Sourcing local, fresh, and quality ingredients is important to us, which is why we work in partnership with leading suppliers including **Bidfood, McCain, Quorn, Tilda, Young's, Heinz and ProVeg.**



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Making The Right Choice For Your Child



Sourcing food responsibly and sustainably ensures that we can produce ethical food that nurtures people and the planet. We're proud to support British Farmers, as such, most of our food comes from local suppliers.

Our meat is **British Farm Assured** and either meets or exceeds UK animal welfare standards, and our poultry is **Red Tractor** accredited, meaning our food is safe, reliable, and fully traceable right back to the farm. Our fish is sustainably sourced and **MSC certified**.

We take pride in accommodating **diverse dietary preferences**, offering choices such as gluten-free, religious and cultural options. Our inclusive approach ensures that every student enjoys a meal that suits their needs.



We're proud to...

- Use Lion Quality Free Range Eggs.
- Use seasonal British vegetables.
- Only use British potatoes.
- Freshly baked bread served daily.
- A variety of seasonal vegetables and salads served daily.
- Make sure that we avoid using GM (genetically modified) foods and specified E Numbers, colourings, preservatives, additives, and allergens.

The HCL Menu Guarantee:

- No salt is used in cooking or offered to pupils to add after service.
- Herbs and spices are used to add flavour and develop growing appetites.
- Wholegrain varieties of starchy foods are included on the menu at least twice per week.
- A mix of dairy and non-dairy protein choices are offered in vegetarian dishes.



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Does Your Child Qualify For A Free School Meal?

We believe that every child should have access to healthy, nourishing meals that give them the foundations to grow, learn and achieve their potential.

Did you know...

Choosing free school meals for your child instead of a packed lunch can save you up to £1000 over a 2-year period.

Your child may also be eligible for free school meals if you receive certain benefits. Visit the government's website for more information: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

What to expect from our menus...

We offer a 3-week menu cycle which is changed twice a year. Our Summer/Autumn Menu is launched after the Easter School holidays, and our Winter/Spring Menu is launched after the October half-term break. Our menus have been developed to offer a choice of delicious meal options each day, including vegetarian and vegan meals. Sugarwise platinum accredited desserts are available daily

82%
of meals
are scratch
cooked



Summer/Autumn 2022
15 APRIL • 7 MAY • 3 JUNE • 24 JUNE • 15 JULY • 2 SEPTEMBER • 23 SEPTEMBER

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
WEEK 1				
MAIN MEAL OPTION 1	Pork Sausages with Gravy	Herb Crusted Chicken with Spaghetti & Marinara	Roast Beef with Gravy	Favourite Gussie Hot Dog
MAIN MEAL OPTION 2	Chicken & Tomato Quiche	Mild Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry	Mince Skewers	Cheesy Spring Vegetable Bake
RICE DISH	Pasta or Potato Wedges	Brown & White Rice	Roast Potatoes or Wholemeal Pasta	Diced Potatoes or Darko Bread
EXTRA OPTION	Jacked Potato (Various Toppings)	Jacked Potato (Various Toppings)	Jacked Potato (Various Toppings)	Jacked Potato (Various Toppings)

Seasonal vegetables and a variety of soups are served daily.

We are proud to use the following food brands: 

We are accredited by: 

in X @hclcatering www.hcl.co.uk

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How To Order Or Register For School Meals...

Ordering your child's daily lunchtime with HCL is done online through SchoolGrid (<https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk>).

SchoolGrid is an easy-to-use ordering and payment system, whereby parents and children can view their lunch menus, including the nutritional information of each meal and order their preferred meals.

Pre-ordering your child's lunch can be done online at home and if your child has an allergy, the dishes unsuitable may be blocked from view. You can easily order your child's lunchtime meal for a day, week, month, or a whole term. The cut-off for ordering is 8.55am on the day in question.

When your child collects their lunch at school, they will select their name on a **touch screen** during lunchtime service and their meal choice and dietary needs (if any) will be displayed.

If your child is not entitled to free school meals, you can pay for their meals by **card payment** if your school supports it. Direct Debits are collected monthly in arrears and SchoolGrid will notify you of collection two weeks before. Sign up online is fast and easy!

How to get started

To get set up, give your email address to your school's office and they will provide you with a SchoolGrid account. You'll receive an email from SchoolGrid with instructions on how to log in and get started.

If your child has an allergy or special dietary requirements, please visit the **Allergy Management System** section of the HCL website www.hcl.co.uk/allergy-overview or speak with your school's office for further guidance.



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Does Your Child Have Any Dietary Preferences?

We have a rigorous process in place to provide a safe meal service to pupils with food allergies or intolerances, which we supply on behalf of your child's school.

If your child has a food allergy or intolerance and meets the qualifying criteria, then we have a range of delicious and nutritious menus designed especially for your child's medical requirement.

Our online **Allergy Management System** is easy to use and takes just a few minutes to set up your child's profile. Visit our website www.hcl.co.uk to get started.

HCL operates a strict No Nut Policy - which means all our Primary Schools do not have nuts or nut traces in any of the ingredients we use.

Pupils who need to monitor their carbohydrate intake, can view this information directly from our website; there is no need to apply for a Special Diet.

Here's what you'll need:

- Your child's school details including class name
- Medical evidence of your child's medical requirements
- Electronic passport style photograph (which you will need to upload on to our system)

Once you have created your account you will be able to easily update the school and HCL with any changes to your child's dietary needs in the future. You will also automatically receive new menus when they change (twice yearly).

If you need any further support, please see the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section of our Special Diets website or alternatively you can email HCL.Nutritionist@hcl.co.uk.



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How We Help Our Communities And The Planet...

We take our responsibility to protect our planet and people very seriously. As part of this, we're committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

We're also taking additional steps to reduce our environmental impact by:

- Raising awareness and educating our school communities through community support sustainability workshops, including lessons on reducing waste to landfill.
- We've removed single use plastic from our catering services in our schools.
- We support schools with gardening initiatives; helping pupils and teachers learn the importance of growing their own vegetables, as well as providing compost bins where possible.
- We work with our suppliers to replace any negative environmental impacts with positive ones. Meeting these requirements is mandatory for all our suppliers.



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Want To Join Us?

If you're looking for a career change or new role, then why not consider a career at HCL?

We're recruiting for passionate individuals to join our kitchen teams. We believe it's important for our employees to enjoy their place of work. That's why we offer good work life balance and a positive and supportive work environment.

Our kitchen roles offer term-time, family friendly hours, a competitive salary, career progression and other benefits including life assurance and a pension scheme.

If you're interested in joining our team, then please visit our website to view our current vacancies and apply today!

hcl.co.uk/join-our-team ▶

We value your feedback...

We want to make sure everyone feels valued and can add value. It's important to us to work in partnership with our pupils and parents to gain valuable feedback about your experience with us. Please share your thoughts with us by completing this **quick and easy survey**.

“
My son is very happy with the choices provided at school, and he normally eats everything offered to him! He likes choosing from a menu each day

Primary school parent
Stevenage
”



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