

Llythyr / Letter 9 :

Ysgol Gwenffrwd's Governing Body is forwarding, to you as parents, for you information, the disappointing message we received from FCC / NEWydd Catering & Cleaning this week. Please see below (message was email to school – English only).

Good morning all,

Since NEWydd was formed back in 2017 we have continuously worked to modernise the business and introduce new technologies and ways of working. It has long been our intention to modify the way in which we deliver schools meals as our existing business model for catering in schools is no longer sustainable due to sudden and enforced changes in demand and new health and safety management requirements. The pandemic situation has created the imperative to move forward with modernisation plans at pace. These plans would have been part of our future planning and we have brought them forward.

To this end we have opened a formal consultation with our workforce, along with the joint trade unions, to develop new ways of working that can not only sustain the business for the future but also create opportunities for many of our staff to increase their employment contracts by creating multi-skilled positions that combine our two main areas of catering and cleaning service.

As you will all be aware we are currently operating an interim catering offer at all schools using our Business Continuity Plan to enable us to provide schools with a more flexible service, both catering and now cleaning, whilst protecting pupils, school staff and our own staff from the risk of infection. This is not the type of service we want to be providing you and far from the standards we pride ourselves on in 'normal' times but, in order to get back to the quality of service you have become accustomed to we need to make these changes in our operating model for the long term good of both NEWydd and the schools we serve.

The NEWydd workforce have been sent the attached consultation document through first class post yesterday and, following consultation with your Federation Chairs and Vice-Chairs along with Claire Homard and Vicky Barlow, we felt it would help schools and particularly Head Teachers to understand the proposal. We also recognise that your school cooks and catering teams are an important part of your school and that they value the support and leadership that they receive from their Heads and through this many may seek your guidance on receiving their consultation pack this morning. This way you will all receive the information at the same time and our hope is that this should not put you in a difficult position in any way.

We are holding Group Consultation Sessions that staff can attend early next week when they will be able to ask any questions and offer any suggestions they might have to improve this proposal and would encourage all staff to attend one of these. We also recognise that you yourselves might want a similar opportunity to provide feedback on these changes as our valued partners. To this end we would be happy to set up a group Webex session where Heads can feedback to us their thoughts and suggestions on these plans whilst the staff consultation is still live. We would suggest that this could take place at some point during week beginning 21st September, so if you would like to join this session please let us know and we will set this up at the time and date best suited to the majority.

Finally, if your NEWydd team do approach with concerns or suggestions around these proposals please advise them to let us know directly, either on the email address newyddstaff@newydd.wales or by contacting their Area Contract Manager who will be more than happy to assist and advice on these matters.

As ever, if you would prefer to discuss this with us direct myself, Rob or Dominic are always happy to take a call or email direct if this would help.

Many Thanks for your continued support



Steve W Jones

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PS. An attachment was sent to Ysgol Gwenffrwd, with this email above, listing 23 Primary School Kitchens that FCC / NEWydd are closing as from Autumn Term 2020, with Ysgol Gwenffrwd's Kitchen being one on this list. The Governing Body of Ysgol Gwenffrwd is in a state of incredulity, as our kitchen at Ysgol Gwenffrwd has always been the heart of our school – where we have our 'theme days' food linking to our curriculum topics, where we always have Welsh Cakes, Leek and Potato Soup matching our National Celebration days, where we have our Healthy School eating links and an Open Kitchen on Parents evenings etc.