

# NEWSLETTER



## **FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 - LACA National Seminar & Members Forum, Kenilworth**

To book for this event at the Chesford Grange Hotel, please click here: <http://www.laca.co.uk/laca-national-seminar-2014>

**If you have any issues or topics you would like discussed at the Forum, please email them to Louise Willis ([admin@laca.co.uk](mailto:admin@laca.co.uk)) by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2014.**

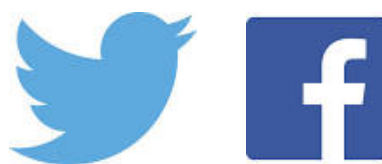
The School Food Plan office is producing a What Works Well 'Toolkit' for Universal Free School Meals, which will be ready in the next couple of weeks.

**Ofsted** - Michael Cladingbowl (Director, Schools) at Ofsted, came to speak at the recent All Parliamentary Group on School Food about their guidance. It was agreed in the meeting that the School Food Plan office would help produce information for inspectors on all the changes and activities going on in school food.

**Change4Life** - I hope some of you have seen the latest Change4Life campaign that has gone to all Primary schools over the last month. There was a teacher Resource pack which focused on School Food Plan What Works Well examples, and they also sent out a Headteacher's Checklist to all schools. You can view them here [http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/schools-partners.aspx?WT.mc\\_id=51101](http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/schools-partners.aspx?WT.mc_id=51101)

We are busy planning future campaigns with them.

**What Works Well website** - We are on track for this being launched at the end of March. Please do get in touch if you would like to contribute to this (so many of you are already – thanks!) or know of schools that have great examples of what works well for them.



## **LACA's Social Media Profiles /Update**

LACA's presence on social media has grown exponentially over the last year and been utilised to great effect in publicising key events and information from the world of education catering. From news about Government legislation on free school meals to updates on the

School Food Plan and all the latest from SCOTY, the LACA Twitter and Facebook accounts are a key tool in communicating with our stakeholders.

Within our 1600 Twitter followers we can include a wide variety of Parliamentarians, journalists, partner organisations and members, with more joining every week. Every tweet we send is re-tweeted on average 156 times and every Facebook post is seen by hundreds of people, proving that our message is being heard far and wide across the digital sphere. Indeed, at its peak during NSMW 2013 our hashtag 'greatschoolslunch' was being used 150 times a day including by key supporters such as Nick Clegg and Jamie Oliver.



**Deputy PM** @dpmoffice  
Nick Clegg: It's National School Meals Week: school meals h  
#GreatSchoolLunch  
2 months ago Reply Retweet Favorite 11 more



**Jamie's Kitchen Garden** @jamieskgp  
Don't forget this week is National School Meals Week  
#schoolfoodmatters  
3 months ago Reply Retweet Favorite 38

Social media continues to play a key role in promoting LACA and communicating our message to all those involved in school food and education catering, if you don't already follow us you can find us on Twitter @LACA\_UK and [here on Facebook](#).

## **Bet Jenkins**

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that our friend and colleague Bet Jenkins, Head of Service for Swansea, has passed away. Bet has been a prominent figure in Welsh school meals for many years, and most of us will have known her for some considerable time. A lady of great character and strong opinions, school meals has lost one of its great advocates.



## **An update from the School Food Plan Team**

**Standards Consultation** - We hope that the Standards Consultation will start any day now. The Department for Education will be running the Consultation, but we will also have some Q&A's and an introduction to the Standards on the School Food Plan website. Myles Bremner has agreed to attend a consultation meeting with school food and drink suppliers, which will be convened through LACA. This date will be announced once consultation starts.

The next job is to produce great guidance to accompany the revised Standards – this guidance will include sample menus, suggested portion sizes and how to procure well. We are going to be working closely with Defra and Department of Health who have agreed to support this work. Please let us know if you would like to help!

**Universal Free School Meals** - It's hoped that the arrangements for the additional, one year £22.5m funding for small schools will be announced soon. Will you please also pass on any news you're hearing about how local authorities and schools are working together on capital funding needs – good and bad. We want to share as much as possible on the website.