

NEWSLETTER



The independent SCHOOL FOOD PLAN

The Department for Education has issued its invitation to tender for contracts to support the implementation of the School Food Plan and they are inviting tenders for a combined contract value of £17.4 million:

- Lot 1: £9.6 million to support schools and other organisations to be ready to provide school lunches to all infant pupils in England from September 2014;
- Lot 2: £4.8 million to increase take up in at least 2000 junior and secondary schools where take-up of school lunches is very low; and
- Lot 3: £3 million to set up breakfast clubs in at least 500 schools where over 35% of pupils are eligible for free school meals and there is no existing breakfast provision.

The deadline for receipt of tenders is midday on **Friday 17th January 2014**, with contracts expected to commence week commencing 24th February. Contracts will run until the end of December 2015. Full details, including how to apply, can be found at <https://online.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/Common/View%20Notice.aspx?site=1000&lang=en&NoticeId=1210761>

The School Food Plan was published in July 2013 and is the outcome of the review of school food commissioned by the Secretary of State for Education.

The aim of the plan is to further increase the quality and take up of school meals, develop a whole-school food culture in every school and to excite children about good food and cooking so that they can lead healthy lives. The plan can be downloaded at www.schoolfoodplan.com

Following the recommendation in the School Food Plan, in September 2013 the government announced that free school meals will be introduced for all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England from September 2014. You can find more details <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/pastoralcare/a00202841/fsmcriteria>



LACA's Great School Lunch Marketing Resources Launches January 2014!

LACA are delighted to announce details of its GREAT SCHOOL LUNCH FREE MARKETING RESOURCES to be launched 1st January 2014.

Many of you will be aware National School Meals Week took a different direction this year and was used effectively to promote all that is 'great about school lunches' prior to, during and post NSMW itself. It was also used to gain interest and political / supplier support for future great school lunch promotions moving forward.

We all recognise marketing activity needs to be available all year round and LACA, as the voice of the school catering industry, is uniquely placed to work with suppliers and other organisations to maximise the reach of such communication to support our many committed members and the school catering industry in general. NSMW will still take place in November and as well as being a standalone event, it will also be LACA's showcase to celebrate all the 'great' things school caterers have been doing during the year leading up to the week.

LACA's Great School Lunch campaign will provide FREE resources for caterers to use throughout the year via a new website which can be found from **early January** at: www.thegreatschoolslunch.co.uk. What's exciting now is that as well as all the NSMW resources, there will be so much more to offer as part of TGSL campaign.



TGSL site will have many features, including monthly promotions and we are delighted to announce the January one here.

LACA are working in collaboration with Change4Life to promote the 'Smart Swap' campaign which school caterers will hear a lot more about in January. Suffice to say at this stage, the LACA partnership has resulted in C4L sending details to all 22,000 Primary schools in England, encouraging parents to **'swap from sandwiches to a hot nutritious meal** - of benefit to us all!!!!.

LACA supporting resources for this event will be available on TGSL site in the New Year.

Change 4 Life have asked LACA to ask members to engage with schools to look out for your Change 4 Life box – addressed to the schools 'healthy school lead', which will be delivered to schools via your fruit and vegetable delivery from 6 January. The box includes exciting free materials to help schools and teachers engage children and parents with the important subject of healthy eating.

More info will be available at www.nhs.uk/C4LSchools in the New Year.



In the Autumn Statement last week, the Chancellor confirmed that funding has been secured to allow for all pupils in the first three years of primary school to receive a free school lunch from September 2014.

Further details are:

- The government will be providing revenue funding of £450 million in 2014-15 and £635 million in 2015-16 to fund this. This is new money to the Department for Education budget.
- The government will also provide capital funding of £150 million to increase capacity in school kitchens and dining areas where necessary. £70 million of this will be new money from the Treasury and around £80 million will be from unspent Department for Education maintenance budgets.
- Funding will also be available to enable further education and sixth form colleagues to provide free meals to disadvantaged young students.

A press release detailing the announcement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nick-clegg-announces-funding-details-for-free-school-meals>

The full Autumn Statement document can be accessed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263575/Autumn_Statement_2013.pdf



FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2014

LACA National Seminar & Members Forum - Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth

If you have any issues or topics you would like discussed at this meeting, please email them to Louise Willis at LACA admin. (admin@laca.co.uk) by Friday the 24th of January 2014.

To book for the National Seminar & Forum – please click here <http://www.laca.co.uk/laca-national-seminar-2014>