

28th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Hello, my name is Mr Merrick, and I am the new Catering Manager here at Ludlow School.

A little about me and my experience: I started catering after leaving school many moons ago, working in a variety of pubs and restaurants in the area, from high-end dining to classic pub grub. After leaving the industry for a few years to explore different opportunities, I found myself at Ludlow School in the DT department—a job I enjoyed both for its creativity and the school environment.

For the past three years, I have worked at the National Trust as Head Cook in the tearooms at Berrington Hall and Croft Castle, gaining a wealth of baking experience. I am passionate about food and making sure everyone enjoys the meals our team provides. They'll be working hard to keep our menus tasty, healthy, and full of variety for the students, with a few specials thrown in along the way.

Enough about me—let's look at what we have planned.

This year, we have decided as a school to provide a FREE Christmas dinner on Wednesday, 17th December. As we are doing this for the whole school, this will be the only catering provision for that day. If Christmas dinner isn't for your child, then you will need to supply a packed lunch.

But before you make that choice, let me tantalise your taste buds with the menu we are planning to offer. We will be serving two courses: a main course and dessert. For the main course, it will be turkey and trimmings (roast potatoes, vegetables, pigs in blankets, and Yorkshire pudding). For dessert, we will be serving a brownie (with cream, custard, or ice cream).

We will cater for dietary needs, offering vegan and gluten-free options so nobody misses out.

Our school strives to provide a safe environment for all students, including those with allergies. To minimise the risk to pupils with nut allergies, Ludlow CE School operates a no-nut policy and asks that no nuts or nut-containing products are brought onto the premises. While we cannot guarantee a completely nut-free environment, we take all reasonable steps to reduce risk and keep students safe.

Looking ahead, we will be reviewing and updating menu options in the new year to cater for a wider school demographic. I look forward to working together to continue delivering outstanding catering services at Ludlow School.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the catering service, feel free to reach out to me at [R.Merrick@ludlowschool.com](mailto:R.Merrick@ludlowschool.com) or through the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Merrick – Catering Manager