



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

*'Learning Together For The Future'*

Head Teacher  
**James McNamara** BA(Hons); NPQH

Wirksworth Road, Duffield, Belper. DE56 4GS  
Tel: (01332) 840645 Fax: (01332) 841871  
Web: [www.ecclesbourne.org.uk](http://www.ecclesbourne.org.uk)  
email: [info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk)

24 September 2024

## **Allergy Alert**

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may have seen in the media, the Food Standards Agency has issued a widespread warning regarding the potential peanut contamination of mustard products – namely mustard, mustard powder and mustard flour.

Mustard is a common ingredient in many products and dishes, so we wanted to write and outline the immediate steps our external catering company, Chartwells, have taken to ensure the safety of students.

Over the weekend, their specialist Vendor Assurance team worked to establish whether any mustard products in their supply chain had been contaminated. At this stage we are reassured that none of the products in their supply chain have been included on the recall list but as this is a fast-moving situation Chartwells have taken the following proactive steps.

The students they feed with a known peanut allergy will be served whole food items this week, such as a jacket potato served either plain or with a suitable topping for their specific requirements such as tuna, beans or cheese and a piece of fruit. Chartwells have also introduced a further triple check process for all processed items such as condiments, sauces and pre-packed sandwiches to ensure the safety of every student they feed.

Chartwells have put up clear signage around school and in the refectory and Sixth Form Centre instructing any student with a peanut allergy to make themselves known to the catering team, and this message has been reinforced by form tutors today. So that our records are up to date I would be grateful if you would contact me to let me know if your child has a peanut allergy if you haven't already provided the school with this information. This is particularly important for students who self-manage allergies in school and who might not be able to eat a dish or item they typically would.

We understand that this is a challenging and worrying time for students with a peanut allergy as well as their parents and carers. Through Chartwells systems, processes and procedures we want you to know that they are working proactively to ensure every student receives a nutritious and delicious meal that is safe.

Chartwells remain in dialogue with the Food Standards Agency and will keep the school updated on their policy as the situation evolves. Please be assured that they take allergens extremely seriously and their teams are trained professionals.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

For further information please visit the FSA website:

[Urgent Allergy Advice: Mustard Ingredients Contaminated with Peanuts | Food Standards Agency](#)

Yours sincerely

Tina Spencer-Keyse  
Director of Human Resources  
Email [tspencer-keyse@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:tspencer-keyse@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk)