

Friday 7th May 2021

Walthamstow School for Girls - Environmental Health Officer Visit

**Removal of our 5-star rating**

Olive Dining work at the school to provide exciting menus using ingredients freshly prepared daily to meet the individual requirements of the students and staff. In the provision of this service and the management of the production of food, we take our Food Hygiene Ratings very seriously.

Olive Dining audit the kitchens where we operate using an external Food Safety Officer every year. This is to ensure that we comply with all relevant legislation, methods of food production and address any changes that maybe required by government. In addition, the kitchen at WSfG is audited on an annual basis by the Local Authority (LA). Olive Dining at WSfG have consistently achieved a 4/5-star rating on an annual basis.

The most recent visit at the end of the spring term identified some points that required to be addressed because of prolonged closure / reduced services during Covid which impacted some of our training and administration duties. **I wish to reassure parents and carers that the inspection findings did not highlight anything to suggest that our catering team are adopting unhygienic food handling practices.** In the meantime, we have implemented an in-depth action plan and the retraining of the catering team at the school.

**Working with the school, Olive Dining have immediately rectified the identified issues and have requested an immediate reinspection of the premises by the LA.** We are informed that in accordance with standard practice, the LA will not re-rate with a number grading until three months have passed, even though we believe the remedial actions we have put in place would secure us a grading of 5 once again.

Because we want to give **maximum assurance to students and their families that food served at Walthamstow School for Girls is safe and follows strict hygiene standards**, we are unhappy about the time delay imposed upon us. **We believe that it is essential that parents are able to trust the quality of the provision.**

We believe that Waltham Forest should be prepared to re-rate without delay; not for our benefit but for that of those we serve. We are currently in dialogue with the LA to facilitate this.

**We are confident that we are complying with all the obligations on us and look forward to the reinspection by Waltham Forest and expect to regain our rating of 5 once this is completed.**

In the meantime, if I can provide any further information and reassurances or if you have any specific questions about the management of the catering service at Walthamstow School for Girls, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Stephanie Spratt

Managing Director

Olive Dining

07584247450