

Congratulations to Swindon schools Catering Managers

16 Primary and Secondary Schools have been recognised for their dedication to encourage healthy eating.

Dorcan Academy, Highworth Warneford, Lydiard Park, Oliver Tomkins and Wroughton Junior School will be receiving Small Steps awards, run by the Children's Food Trust, which support schools in improving menus and increasing school meal uptake. Dorcan Academy, Highworth Warneford, Lydiard Park Academy, Oliver Tomkins and Wroughton Junior School received recognition for being amongst the first schools in the country to engage with the "making school meals count" project run by the Children's Food Trust. This Department for Education funded work aims to improve student's health by increasing school meal uptake.

Haydon Leigh, Westlea, Holy Family, Holy Cross, South Marston and East Wichel primary schools, as well as the Chalet School, have all accomplished Food For Life Partnership accreditation, recognising their joined-up approach to providing healthy, more sustainable food. Swindon Borough Council has helped schools gain training and equipment to support these achievements.

Haydon Leigh scooped a gold award and its Catering Manager Karen Mc Fadyen played a crucial part in this accolade.

Karen Mc Fadyen said: "This has been a five year journey and we feel very proud to have come so far. We're now able to provide high quality meals cooked from scratch using organic and locally sourced produce, thanks to fantastic relationships with local suppliers such as Purton House Organic and Hinton Marsh Farm. Sausage and mash and roast dinners, made using free range meat, are clear favourites and school meals are so popular the kitchen serves around 300 meals daily." She also added, "the children really enjoy the food so we don't see many leftovers. It's the traditional dishes which they seem to like the most and it's all very wholesome. We have a very committed and experienced team in the kitchen, so this award is a credit to all that hard work."

Eight other primary and junior school Catering Managers: Lorraine Gilmore, of Wroughton Lynda Wells of Westlea, Kerry Oakley of Holy Cross, Stephanie Baker of East Wichel, Lena Missen of King William Street, Lyndsey Bond of Sevenfields, Emilio Fuso of Nythe and Anne-Marie Bowden of Oakhurst have all been instrumental in promoting healthy eating.

Cllr Fionuala Foley, Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Member for Children Services, presented awards at a presentation held at The Dorcan Academy, in Covingham, on Wednesday, 24th June.

Cllr Foley, Congratulated all schools and Catering Managers who are embracing such a holistic, creative and most importantly, enjoyable approach to healthy eating.

Having a well-balanced diet is vital for every child and starting these habits from an early age is really important. It's fantastic to see so many schools in the Borough going the extra mile and putting so much effort into making sure their pupils get delicious, nutritious food every day of the week. Catering staff really are the unsung

heroes behind this success story, so I was delighted to be part of this special celebration and would like to say a big well done to everyone involved.

This is an excellent achievement for the schools and their students; it also takes these schools into the league of achieving the Silver Healthy schools award - **BIG WELL DONE !**