



# WORKING WITH CATERERS

Message to school staff,

Thank you for supporting *Eat Them to Defeat Them* and the new Veg Hunter Champion role.

This new idea is designed to be a **PUPIL LED, light-touch, flexible activity** that supports what's already happening in school – and not something that creates extra work for you.

We understand that **catering teams often plan menus well in advance**, and it may not always be possible to make changes. That's absolutely fine. The aim isn't perfection, but for the Veg Hunter Champion role to try and get everyone **working as a team** – pupils, teachers and caterers – to help to get the children excited about veg in a positive, practical way.

**If your catering team are willing and enthusiastic**, then the Veg Hunters can:

- Talk to catering teams about what veg is already on the menu, we suggest you run theme-days and hand out stickers on those days when they are serving the veg you want to champion.
- Promote and celebrate those veg with their peers.
- Talk to the catering teams after the Great Veg Vote and organise tasting events to boost the popularity of the least favourite vegetables.
- Have themed days and events to introduce new vegetables to the school too.
- Help gather ideas and feedback from pupils.

Please note: we are in contact with many school caterers and will brief their head office teams on this project - many of them are very supportive of Eat Them to Defeat Them. If



your caterers don't know us please ask them to email [hello@vegpowers.org.uk](mailto:hello@vegpowers.org.uk) and we'll support them too.

If working directly with the catering team isn't possible, **pupils can still play a really valuable role.**

Veg Hunter Champions can:

- Be a **positive presence in the lunch hall**, encouraging and motivating other pupils.
- Help with **stickers, displays and decorations.**
- Promote the **five key vegetables from the Great Veg Vote.**
- Celebrate and encourage veg choices in a fun, supportive way.

If you can just find out when different veg are being served you can fit your theme-days or other events around the menu cycle which may be fixed and inflexible. Most caterers have a planned fixed for the term ahead and should be able to share this with you.

Importantly, this role doesn't need to stop at *Eat Them to Defeat Them* week. Schools are encouraged to **carry on the Veg Hunter Champions approach across the whole year**, helping to build long-term enthusiasm for veg.

Where possible, this teamwork also gives schools the chance to **enter the Eat Them to Defeat Them Schools' Challenge**, with the added 'carrot' of a **cash top prize** of £1000 to win.

Thank you for your flexibility and support – working together, even in small ways, makes a big difference.