

1 Turkey Twizzlers, the fast-food product loathed by nutritionists and loved by children, are to be banned by one of the largest companies supplying school lunches. This follows a campaign by chef Jamie Oliver. Last week's edition of his Channel 4 series *Jamie's School Dinners* showed him asking the head of Scolarest, Tony Sanders, why his company continues to supply Twizzlers to schoolchildren when they are so unhealthy. Scolarest supplies meals to around 2,000 state primary and secondary schools, but is removing Turkey Twizzlers from the menu, even if schools request them. A spokeswoman said: 'We recognise customers' concerns about the product, and we have begun a long programme to take off as much processed food as possible.'

2 However, supermarkets will still be selling the Twizzlers, whose lack of nutritional content worries health experts. They contain 34 per cent turkey and are bulked up with water, pork fat and rusk, coating (sugar, rusk, tomato powder, wheat starch, dextrose, salt, wheat flour, potassium chloride, hydrogenated vegetable oil, citric acid, spices, onion powder, malt extract, smoke flavourings, garlic powder, colour (E160c), mustard flour, permitted sweetener (E951), herb, spice extracts, herb extracts), and additives and flavourings (vegetable oil, turkey skin, salt, wheat flour, dextrose, stabiliser (E450), mustard, yeast extract, antioxidants (E304, E307, E330, E300), herb extract, spice extract, colour (E162)).

3 Jamie Oliver was jubilant over the success of his *Feed Me Better* campaign, which has seen dozens of parent groups across the country asking school heads about the quality of lunches. Oliver said: 'If Scolarest are going to ban Turkey Twizzlers then I think they've acted really responsibly. Getting all the cheap, processed junk food out of schools and getting the dinner ladies cooking real food is going to help the kids and will save money in the long run, as we won't be creating so many problems down the line for the NHS.' (National Health Service)'

4 Teachers welcomed the move. One Nottingham headteacher, who recently ended his school's three-year contract with Scolarest, said " We provide meals for our 850 pupils but it is difficult balancing what you want the children to eat with what they actually will eat. We offer salads and healthy options but over half our students still choose chips and burgers every day. We can't force them to eat meat and two veg because they will simply bring in cans of pop and crisps, and eat that instead. It's terribly difficult." *Jamie's School Dinners* showed the chef ranting against the poor standards of many school meals as he worked with dinner ladies to persuade children to eat more healthy food. It showed his frustration that children will still opt for burgers and chips even when he produced tempting and healthy alternatives such as *risotto* or *lasagne* with a fresh salad.

5 The government has published guidelines to improve the quality of school meals, while Parliament has plans for a school meals and nutrition bill that would make some categories of food unavailable on certain days and mean that vending machines would dispense only healthy products. It would also allow schools to stop children leaving at lunchtime so they would have to eat lunch on the premises.

6 Bernard Matthews, the company which makes Turkey Twizzlers and Turkey Dinosaurs, said it had no intention of stopping production. In a statement the company said: "We believe that there is no one food that is bad for you, and that it is the balance of food you eat that makes for a good or bad diet." The company added that it has been lowering salt and fat levels in its foods.

A. Match the following

Turkey Twizzlers	a company supplying school meals
Bernard Matthews	a famous tv chef
Scolarest	an artificial colouring agent used in food
Jamie Oliver	a manager
E160c	a food manufacturer
Tony Sanders	a British tv station
Channel 4	carbonated soft drinks e.g. coke and fanta
Pop	a fast-food product served in schools

B. Which paragraphs contain the following information?

- a. The ingredients of a fast-food product
- b. Future action by government
- c. The foods children prefer to eat
- d. A decision by a supply company
- e. The manufacturer's opinion
- f. A television programme
- g. A teacher's reaction

C. What do the following words mean?

loathed	carrots, broccoli etc.
lack	hated
bulked up	carbonated drinks e.g. coke and fanta
jubilant	shouting angrily
veg	reducing
pop	expanded
ranting	very happy
lowering	absence

D. Answer the questions.

1. Why do nutritionists hate Turkey Twizzlers (TTs)?
2. What has Scolarest promised to do?
3. How much real turkey do TTs contain?
4. How have parents reacted to Jamie's campaign?
5. What are the advantages of eating "real food" at school?
6. What kind of food do children choose to eat?
7. Do teachers agree with Jamie Oliver?
8. Who cooks the school meals?
9. How has government contributed to the campaign?
10. What changes is Bernard Matthews making to its products?

E. Answer the questions.

1. Do children eat at school in Italy?
2. What kinds of fast foods are available in Italy?
3. Do you enjoy fast foods?
4. What do you consider to be a healthy diet?
5. How healthy is the food you eat?
6. Do you agree with Jamie Oliver?
7. Why does the food industry manufacture unhealthy food?