

News

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Rassam's Creamery is coming to Merchant Gate

Yorkshire ice cream parlour Rasmussen's Creamery is to open a new outlet at Merchant Gate, the striking mixed-use development in the heart of Wakefield.

Rasmussen's has taken Unit 7, comprising 5,468 sq ft, at the popular Merchant Gate on a 20-year lease.

The parlour is due to be fitted out shortly and is planning to open before the end of the year, depending on the lifting lockdown restrictions.

Merchant Gate, one of the most successful mixed-use regeneration projects in West Yorkshire, has been delivered by The English Cities Fund, a strategic joint venture between urban regeneration innovators, Muse Developments, Legal & General and Homes England, working collaboratively with Wakefield Council and Network Rail.

James Scott, development director at The English Cities Fund, said: "Bringing Rasmussen's to Merchant Gate highlights its commitment to our development, as well as being a ringing endorsement of what we've achieved here. Rasmussen's is an innovative product that drives both economic and social prosperity, which is so important in these unprecedented times.

"We're delighted to welcome Rasmussen's to the scheme and we look forward to seeing it open when it's appropriate to do so."

He added: "This unit was formally occupied by Anytime Fitness and a recent change of use planning application has been secured for restaurant/leisure use, which has enabled Rasmussen's to move in."

Rasmussen Alyafai, owner of Rasmussen's Creamery, commented: "It gives me great pleasure to announce the opening of my new restaurant at Merchant Gate. Since launching in Sheffield in 2012, Rasmussen's has become famous in Yorkshire.

"This unit at Merchant Gate is massive and I believe it will be the largest dessert restaurant in the UK, along our restaurant at Sheffield. I decided to open in Wakefield because there isn't anywhere special for families to go out with their loved ones to enjoy a sweet evening and a great atmosphere.

"We are planning to open by the end of the year and are hoping that we will make a difference in the community of Wakefield, just like we did at Sheffield."

Merchant Gate blends together Grade A office buildings, prime retail and leisure facilities, alongside 66 residential apartments, a new public square, as well as a 1,500-space multi-storey car park and a new college for performing arts.

CAPA - Creative and Performing Arts College - is currently under construction at Merchant Gate and will welcome up to 500 students in September next year. In addition, Merchant Gate is home to Wakefield Council's civic offices, library and museum.

James Scott commented that Merchant Gate was a striking symbol of the remarkable renaissance of Wakefield.

“Merchant Gate, and strategic schemes like it in the city, are changing people’s perceptions of Wakefield. The city is benefitting from substantial investment, a proud history and an excellent location and Merchant Gate is fast becoming one of its premier mixed-use destinations,” he said.