

## **Time For Tea As Merrion Centre Announces Leeds' First 'Chatime' Specialist Tea House**

- **The Merrion Centre further expands its offering as it announces Leeds first franchise of international specialist tea brand, Chatime**
- **The new venue will open in February 2019**

The Merrion Centre is celebrating further success in securing its place as one of Leeds top food and drink destinations, as the world's largest international tea-house, Chatime, has selected it as the chosen location for its brand-new venue.

The new shop on Woodhouse Lane is to be the first in Leeds and will be opening its doors to customers in February 2019. It is the company's 24<sup>th</sup> UK venue and will be joining more than 2,500 stores across 38 countries creating 6 jobs locally.

Run by Business Developer Vincent Deng, Chatime will offer a variety of specialist drinks including those typically served with a variety of edible "pearls". With an extensive take out menu including fruit tea, oriental pop tea, milk tea, fresh tea, 'QQ jelly', mousse, smoothies and refreshing coolers (encompassing over 50 flavours), the café will also have seating space for 15-18 'tea loving' customers.

The Merrion Centre continues to go from strength to strength, welcoming in excess of 11.2m internal visitors in 2018 with customers showing their continued loyalty to the centre's ever-growing mix of brands and specialist operators.

Chatime is yet another global brand to open at Leeds longest serving shopping centre, once again expanding on the Arena Quarter's choice of unique food and drink outlets including Arnolds Restaurant and Bar, the award winning My Thai and flagship Bengal Brasserie.

Commenting on the franchise's new location Mr. Deng said: "As Chatime continues to expand, we're extremely excited to be bringing our concept the Merrion Centre and Leeds. Being located in the heart of the city and so close to the extensive international student population gives us access to a diverse mix of customer including those from overseas that have already grown to love the fantastic Chatime brand. Chatime is the most loved and respected Tea House in the world and we are committed to serving a consistently high quality and extensive variety of teas whilst also providing outstanding customer service. We look forward to opening in February and becoming part of this ever-evolving area within Leeds city centre".

Helen Green, Associate Director for Town Centre Securities (TCS), owners of the Merrion Centre, said: “We’re very excited to welcome Chatime to Leeds successful Arena Quarter, contributing further to the Merrion Centre’s existing eclectic mix of local, specialist, niche and international offerings. There are currently many new developments within the immediate vicinity of the Merrion Centre, and we have no doubt that this new addition will enjoy every success on the back of this as we welcome even more customers in 2019”.

**Chatime is expected to open early Feb 2019.**

**-END-**

### **SUPPORTING IMAGES**

Left to right: Vincent Deng, Business Developer, Chatime & Helen Green, Associate Director, TCS





## **ABOUT THE MERRION CENTRE**

The Merrion Centre is a 1 million sq. ft mixed use scheme in the centre of Leeds. The Centre was originally designed and built in 1964 by property investment and car parking operator, Town Centre Securities PLC (TCS).

Uniquely, TCS continue to own, develop and asset manage the Centre to date and have implemented a sustainable approach to the phased design, refurbishment and redevelopment of the site. Over £70m has been invested in recent years and investment is set to continue ensuring Merrion's position as a leading destination for commercial office, retail and leisure space.

With over 100 shops, cafés and restaurants as well as offering a bowling alley, gym, nightclubs and 134 bedroomed hotel, it is located in the Arena Quarter and is close to the civic quarter and university campuses.

A 10 minute walk from Leeds train station and a 15 minute walk from Leeds bus station, the Centre welcomed over 11.2 million visitors in 2018. The first direct Arena is immediately opposite the Merrion Centre.

**Merrion Centre:** [merrioncentre.co.uk](http://merrioncentre.co.uk) **Arena Qtr:** [arenaquarter.com](http://arenaquarter.com) **TCS:** [tcs-plc.co.uk](http://tcs-plc.co.uk)

## **ABOUT CHATIME**

Chatime is a Taiwanese global franchise teahouse chain based in Taiwan. Chatime is the largest teahouse franchise in the world. Its expansion and growth model is through franchising. It operates 2500+ outlets in 38 countries. In 2006, it opened its first store outside of Taiwan in California, United States and it has since expanded to China, Malaysia, Canada, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, India, United Arab Emirates, Japan and South Korea, amongst others. Henry Wang Yao-Hui founded Chatime in 2005 in Hsinchu, Taiwan, under the parent company, La Kaffa Coffee.

<http://www.chatimeuk.com/>

*For further information or for any press enquiries please contact [lotty@hairy-lemon.co.uk](mailto:lotty@hairy-lemon.co.uk) or call 07730582011*