

3rd July 2009

Dear Parent

We are pleased to announce that we are installing a biometric cashless catering system in preparation for September 2009. The new system will allow us to continue with the development of the school meals service, and will provide us with a more efficient, secure, faster and ultimately better quality of service. We believe it will be a considerable improvement upon our current card system.

This is a system that incorporates the latest technology and eliminates the need to use Smartcards or carry cash throughout the day, as the system will recognise the finger/thumb print of your child at the tills.

Biometric systems are based on finger/thumb print recognition technology. The system works by taking measurements of the finger/thumb print, but they **do not** capture a complete image. This means that the original finger/thumb print cannot be reconstructed from the data.

It is our intention to go live with this system on **Thursday 10th September 2009**. Capturing mages of finger/thumb prints will commence Wednesday 8th July. Once all images have been taken and registration onto the system is complete, Smartcards will no longer be valid, but a further communication will be given to pupils in September. **Proof of entitlement for free meals must be received by this date as current Smartcards for free meals will be cancelled on the 9th September 2009.**

All students and staff will be informed of and given training on how to use the system.

As before, we have two methods of payment option available to you, online payments via ParentPay (which is our preferable option) and by cheque. These are explained with the attached information included with this letter. Any amount of money can be paid into your account (minimum amount £20.00), with the money spent on food and drink deducted on a daily basis.

The daily 'spend limit' which is programmed into the system at £5.00, can be increased or decreased for an individual student by making a written request to the Catering Manager.

The biometric system will also be incorporated into the Library and we will also be trialling biometric registration for our Sixth Form from late September 2009. We are also investigating access control, using biometric technology, to the school buildings as a long term future project.

The attached information hopefully should give you background information about catering in schools, and the reasons for using new technology, and answer all your questions. Should this not be the case pleased feel free to contact Mrs S Ford, School Administrator and Businesses Manager at any time.

Yours sincerely

D J Wheeldon
Headmaster