

September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing further to our letter in May 2024 to advise parents that with effect from September 2024 the cash crediting machine has been removed. This means that we will operate an entirely cashless catering system using our biometrics and all accounts must be topped up using your child's online ParentPay account (only).

The vast majority of our parents already use this method online and works very well. Unfortunately, we continue to experience problems with the cash crediting machine and in line with most schools will go completely cashless.

This will have the following key benefits:

- Facility for parents/carers to pay on-line
- No need to carry cash, preventing loss/theft
- Students learn about important lifestyle control by monitoring their own accounts
- On a daily basis, the system automatically allocates funds to the catering accounts of those students on free school meals; students with free meal entitlements remain anonymous.
- Parents/carers can use our online payments system to see the food their child has consumed in school

Cashless catering means that students cannot use cash in school. No cash can be accepted at our catering terminals, and all food is paid for by account. Every student is allocated an individual catering account and parent/carers can deposit funds into their child's account through our online payments system, ParentPay. **As a reminder some banks take 24 hours to clear funds, so it is recommended that you don't top up on the day unless your bank clears fund immediately.**

Purchases of food and drink are deducted from catering accounts in real time. The system automatically imposes a 'spend limit' of £6.00 for every student. The system uses two methods of student identification: biometric finger scan and student photo. Students can only be registered for the biometric system once we have received consent from parents, completing the biometrics form on admission.

Thank you for co-operation with this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Prankerd
Headteacher

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