

## **THE NEW BIOMETRIC CASHLESS PAYMENT SYSTEM**

### **Background Information: The Government's plan to improve the quality of school meals.**

School meals have been the focus of much interest nationally in recent years.

There have been concerns over the nutritional quality of the food provided (including the Jamie Oliver campaign) plus evidence of an increase in child obesity.

**The Health Survey England in 2002 found that 16.6% boys and 16.7% girls aged 2-15 was obese and a further 13.6% boys and 14.3% girls were overweight. The Survey also found that most children eat too much fat, added sugar and salt and only eat two of the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables each day.**

In March 2005 the Secretary of State for Education and Skills announced a package of measures designed to improve significantly the quality of school meals.

These included:

- New nutritional standards for school food
- The establishment of a School Food Trust to provide advice and support
- Additional funding to authorities & schools of £220m between 2005 & 2008
- New qualifications for catering staff
- New arrangements for monitoring food standards through OFSTED
- Priority for the building and refurbishment of kitchens

### **Introducing the new cashless school meals system**

Benefits the trust-e cashless system will bring to the school.

- Specific food allergy ingredients can be barred automatically.
- Healthy eating is encouraged.
- Discourages the misuse of school dinner money through spending in shops outside of the school grounds.
- Alleviates many of the associated problems with the use of cash in schools. i.e.: Loss, theft and bullying.
- Queuing times are reduced through increased speed of service.
- Automatic free meal allocation with the student remaining anonymous.
- Having control of student accounts by students teaching them important life skills.
- A more efficient delivery of service helps the canteen to provide wholesome, healthy and enjoyable school meals at a lower cost.
- Control of student accounts ability to confirm money paid into the accounts and various other reports on all aspects of the system.

### **How will 'healthy eating' be encouraged?**

After the new system has been operating for a while, we hope to enhance further the school's 'healthy eating policy'. When the food is selected on the canteen server's keypad, it will also register points for a balanced, healthy and nutritious school dinner. There will be some recognition for the highest scoring students.

### **What is meant by 'dietary control'?**

Should the student have a specific food allergy, or be a diagnosed diabetic, this medical information can be coded into the system, preventing foods with allergy ingredients from being served to a particular student, by automatically locking out relevant buttons on the keyboard.

### **Will students have problems in using this system?**

Some students may find it difficult to control their accounts for the first couple of weeks, but because of a daily spend limit, most learn this important life skill very quickly and will enjoy being in control of their account.

### **Will we be able to have any information on how the system is being used?**

Reports can be obtained from the system giving comprehensive information on all aspects of use for each individual student as well as each day's service. These reports can be for a specific day or between any dates you wish, they will be dated and timed to the minute, and can be obtained from the Catering Department.

- (a) To show every item of food served and the total cost of each serving.
- (b) Individual payments made direct to the school by cheque or cash and manually entered into the system.
- (c) Each payment made by cash at the revaluation station by the student and if required, even the number of individual coins and the denomination.
- (d) A total overview to show the date, time and location with the cost of each purchase value of all manual cheque or cash payments, value of all cash deposited in the revaluation station and current cash balance

FURTHER DETAILS ON WHEN AND HOW THESE WILL BE PROVIDED WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE IN DUE COURSE.

Certain student data will be held on the system to enable accurate operation. This will include your child's name, tutor group, photo, account balance and meal entitlement. This data will be handled under the guidelines of the Data Protection Act and only used by parties directly involved with the implementation of the system.

### **Some Popular Questions and Answers**

#### **Q. How do I credit the account?**

A. This can be done in 2 ways:

**By Cheque**, this eliminates the need for pupils to carry any cash. Cheques should be made payable to DCC with bankers card details, pupil's name and form on the back. Place in the cheque box which is situated near the Student Support Office (Medical Room).

**By Cash**, into the revaluation machines on site. These take £5, £10 and £20 notes, £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p coins – **no copper is accepted**.

**There is no minimum or maximum amount that has to be credited to the account before it can be used. (However, the account must be in credit to purchase food).**

#### **Q. When can I use the revaluation machine?**

A. Before the 8.30 am in the morning, at morning break and at lunchtime.  
Remember to credit your card in advance before purchasing food.

#### **Q. How do I check if I have credit on my account?**

A. Simply place your thumb on the revaluation machine and this will tell you the balance on your account.

#### **Q. I am entitled to a free meal, how does it work?**

A. The allowance is credited to you each lunch time to allow you to purchase your meal. **(This allowance if not used will not carry over to the next day).**

#### **Q. Can anyone else use my account?**

A. No – the thumb registration system is unique to the student.

#### **Q. What happens if I forget my money to credit my account?**

A. You will need to see a member of staff to authorise and cover the cost of a meal – this **MUST** be paid back in full the next day.

#### **Q. Can I have any say in what my child eats?**

A. The system has a blocking facility that will identify any items the child is not allowed either by choice or dietary needs. This needs to be confirmed in writing by the parent/carer.