

Q What is a cashless system?

A A Cashless Catering System is a solution which is purpose designed to meet the ever evolving needs and demands of the catering provision, required by today's schools and academies. This allows us to be better able to provide their students and staff with a faster, more efficient and more appealing meal service.

Q What is 'biometric?'

A Biometric is simply a method of identifying an individual person. The system uses an algorithm based scan, which reads between 50 and 130 points on the finger/thumb. It is not a fingerprint in any way, shape or form and is of use only in the Cashless System.

Q How does a biometric system work?

A The information of a student, who has been biometrically registered, is stored on a secure biometric controller within the school, which only our provider can access with permission from the school. Once an account is credited, the pupil places their finger/thumb on the Biometric Reader, which looks up their account and allows them to purchase items using only this method of identification.

Q How does my child register on the biometric system?

A Registration will take place on Thursday 6th September 2018. Students will attend at a requested time and will be required to place their finger/thumb on the Biometric Reader twice to obtain a matching template, which only takes a few seconds. If you have chosen to opt-out of this procedure, your child will be presented with a 4 digit PIN code.

Q What methods of payment can be used to credit an account?

A ParentPay will be used to credit a student's individual account. Many parents will be familiar with using parent pay already, however further information will be provided concerning this at the start of term

PayPoint – (available by request through ParentPay)

You can be issued with a PayPoint card, which can be used to top up your child's account at your local PayPoint stores. Payments via PayPoint will take up to 48 hours to be credited to the appropriate account. You can find your local stores by visiting the website below:

<http://www.paypoint.co.uk/locator.aspx>

Q How can I check the credit on an account?

A Balances can be checked online through ParentPay, there will also be a biometric reader located in the dining area which students can use to check their balance.

Q Can I change my child's 'daily spend limit?'

A Yes – the amount your child can spend throughout one day can be changed through the ParentPay system.

Q What happens if my child's account is not in credit?

A An automatic overdraft facility exists which will allow the student to go into debit at the cost of 1 meal (£2.45).

Q How do 'free meal' entitlements work?

A All free meal entitlements will be entered on to the system prior to the start of term. The Cashless Catering System will, on a daily basis, automatically allocate the appropriate accounts with the free school meal amounts. Pupils with FSM entitlement remain anonymous at all times as all account types are accessed in the exact same manner, regardless of whether paid for or not. Please note that any monies not spent from the daily free meal allocation will not be carried over to the next day.

Q Can anyone else use my child's account?

A No – due to the extensive security on biometric templates, no-one will be able to access your child's account. As a secondary precaution, a photo image is allocated to each student. If your child is using a 4 digit PIN code, which someone obtains and attempts to use, the photograph shown at the EPOS Terminal will alert the operator of a fraudulent sale.

Q My child has an allergy. Will this be monitored through the Cashless System?

A Yes – all allergy records registered with the school will be entered on to the Cashless System. When students attempt to purchase an item, which contains ingredients that they are allergic to, the system will alert the operator and prevent them from selling the chosen item.

Q Can I dictate my child's dietary requirements?

A The system will allow you to register any items that your child cannot consume due to dietary needs or religious reasons. Any such items must be confirmed in writing by the parent/guardian, and sent to office@gwacademy.co.uk.

Q Can I see a report of my child's meal intake?

A Yes – this is available through ParentPay.