



March 2025

Ref: KMN/CLN

Dear Family

### **Reintroduction of Biometric Identification for Cashless Catering System**

We are writing to inform you about an important update regarding our school's cashless catering system. In order to further enhance the efficiency and security of our lunch service, we are reintroducing the use of biometric identification for all students.

The biometric system will be used solely for the purpose of accessing the cashless catering system, allowing students to make payments for food and drinks in the school canteen. This system will replace the lunch card system that we're currently using.

#### **What are biometrics?**

Biometrics authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics. By measuring an individual's physical features in an authentication inquiry and comparing this data with stored biometric reference data, the identity of a specific user is determined. There are many different biometric features that can be used for authentication purposes these include finger image, signature, iris, retina, DNA or any other unique characteristic. Once a characteristic has been chosen the next stage in the Biometric process is authentication. A biometric feature is saved on to a database. Once the data has been stored, a new scanning of the biometric feature is taken. If the comparison is positive, access to the appropriate application is granted.

#### **Why are we reintroducing this system?**

The biometric system has proven to be both secure and efficient, reducing the need for students to carry lunch cards with them and will remove the issue of families having to replace lost cards remember. The system is designed with privacy in mind and complies fully with data protection regulations.

#### **What do you need to do?**

We require your consent for your child to participate in this system.

You can do this by logging into your Arbor app and under the 'Notices' section you will see 'You have not consented to Biometric Identification'. Click on this and it you will be able to accept or decline consent.

We have attached some further information from CRB Cunninghams, who operate the biometric system.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the biometric identification system, or if you would prefer that your child not participate, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are happy to discuss any aspects of the system with you further.

Thank you for your continued support in making our academy a safe and efficient environment for all students. We look forward to the positive impact this update will have on the daily experience of our students.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Daly  
**Associate Principal**