

Dear Parent/Carer

Biometric Payment System

As our academy grows in popularity, we are full in year 7 from September 2018 with 100 students joining us. We are upgrading our catering experience for the students. On Monday 16 April the academy changed catering provider to Sodexo, the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. The student council and many parents I spoke to at our well attended year 9 parents evening (73% attendance) have voiced their satisfaction with increased salad, fruit and vegetable options and the high quality and choice available. For example, each Friday this term the catering manager has purchased the fish straight from Grimsby Fish Dock early Friday morning before preparing it for the students at lunchtime!

As part of this strategy we are significantly upgrading our second dining area involving new flooring, seating and a second service area. This is consistent with the new academy day from September 2018, parents have overwhelmingly voted in favour of the new academy day. I will personally discuss the concerns with the parents who prefer the current academy day.

I am excited to inform you that on Monday 18 June Beacon Academy will switch to cashless catering at break and lunchtimes. We will be implementing the cashless system using ParentPay and by using fingertip recognition known as biometrics.

The benefits of a cashless system are as follows:

- Improved security, reducing cash transactions in the academy.
- Students will not have to remember to bring a card or alternative payment method.
- Reduction in queuing time at break or lunchtimes.
- Parents do not have to provide cash to their student in the morning for lunch, reducing the potential for students to buy crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks as an alternative to a nutritionally balanced meal at the academy.

Biometrics is a technology that is already used successfully by thousands of schools. We are keen to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to find out more about the system and answer any questions they may have.

We would like to make it clear that Beacon Academy will comply at all times with Data Protection Act and with the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (which came into force in September 2013) regarding the use of biometric data.

BioStore the professional Identity Management Company who manage the system will be in the academy week beginning 11 June to record your student's fingertip to enable the till points to recognise your student.

In order for your child to use the biometric system, one parent or carer will need to read the information enclosed and provide consent either by email, or sign and return the attached form. We will also offer an opportunity to opt out for those pupils who, upon consideration, would prefer to use alternative forms of identification.

I enclose further information about biometrics systems, I am happy to answer any questions or discuss any concerns on 01472 328888 or via email office@beaconacademy.co.uk or in Headteacher's Drop-in every Thursday between 3:30 – 5:00pm.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Thurley', written over a horizontal line.

J Thurley
Headteacher