

June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**CASHLESS CATERING, BIOMETRIC PRINTING AND PHOTOCOPYING**

As you are probably aware, The Regis School relies on a biometric (fingerprint) secure technology for access to services such as cashless catering, printing and photocopying. This secure system has a range of benefits and has been very well received by students, parents and staff in our state-of-the-art building.

It is important to realise that the fingerprint image cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the fingerprint to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the fingerprint, only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a fingerprint image.

The system is very simple to use and all students are trained in putting money onto their accounts, checking the balance and its use. Please see overleaf for more information or if you do not wish for your child to be part of the schools biometric system or wish to discuss please contact Mr Betts (Director of Business) on 01243 871008.

Yours faithfully



**Mr M Garlick**  
Principal

## Leading the Way

Our industry leading Biometric cashless catering system offers all the features of the card system along with many other benefits. Ease of use, a simplified registration process and cutting edge technology all combine to offer you the customer a multi functional, cost effective tailor-made solution for school meals.

No more the realm of the FBI. Biometric technology is now making an impression in many areas of day to day life. Banks, Supermarkets and now even Schools are adopting this increasingly popular technology.

Biometrics may seem to us like an element of the future, however it has been around for quite some time. Its humble beginnings can be traced back to ancient Egyptian times when, body parts were measured and used as a form of identity and the use of Biometrics as a security device, began with officials in China using them to seal documents, as far back as the second century BC.

Whilst Biometric Technology has been steadily growing in popularity over the past 10 years the past couple of years has seen a major explosion in development. Within the next year Mobile Telephones and Personal Computers will have fingerprint scanners as optional equipment. In the long term Biometrics will replace Credit cards and Passports thereby becoming a major part of everyone's life.

## Biometrics in Schools

In the past students have been given a card to enable them to purchase food from the restaurant or top up their accounts. This method addressed the problems it was intended to by removing money from the classroom and taking away the stigma attached to free school meals. Parents were sure lunch money was being spent correctly and they could even monitor what their children were eating .However not happy to sit on our laurels we wanted to improve our Cashless system. By introducing Biometrics this removes the emphasis on pupils having to remember their cards or Pin numbers and alleviates the chance of identity fraud. Caterers enjoy even faster speed of service as Students no longer have to search for swipe cards and therefore hold up the queue. Finally, Schools benefit by saving money on cards and administrative staff save valuable time by no longer having to issue new cards.



## Biometrics and Security

Students, Parents and Staff can rest assured that the fingerprint images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the fingerprint to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the fingerprint, only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a fingerprint image. Finger print registration is purely voluntary and those not wishing to sign up will still be able to use the system by way of a pin number or card.

