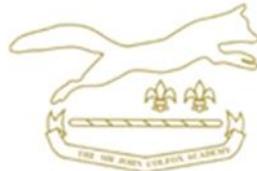


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr David Herbert BSc PGCE NPQH

March 2019

Dear Parents

The school currently has an on-line payment facility, WisePay, for school trips. We are aware that many parents have asked whether it would be possible to include the ability to pay for school meals using the same system.

As you will be aware, the catering is provided by Caterlink and payments for school meals goes directly to them and not through the school. This will remain, however, I can now confirm that we are going to be piloting an extension to the WisePay system which will enable catering payments to be made. This will initially be for students who are currently in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and will come into effect during the Summer Term, after Easter with the expectation of being available to all from September 2019.

You will access your WisePay account exactly as you do now, but where you currently only have the option to pay for trips/products, there will be an additional section for catering, where you can top-up your child's account.

In addition, the cashless system currently in operation has been by way of a card account and students are often losing/forgetting to bring their lunch cards in, so it has been decided to upgrade and move to a bio-metric (thumb-print recognition) system. This is already implemented in many Dorset schools, including Woodroffe. As with the card system, this will still give you the ability to:

- See when and by how much each student's credit has been re-valued
- View the specific purchases made each day (e.g. what your child is eating), the catering staff will be more than happy to provide this information if requested

The new bio-metric system will also offer:

- A swifter service throughout service times
- No need for your child to be carrying cash whilst at school
- No need to pay for lost cards

The current card account balance will be transferred into their new account automatically over the Easter break.

For those students in other Years, the card system will remain.

In order for this to happen, we are arranging over the 4th and 5th April for all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, along with staff to be registered and shown how to use the system in the school canteen. If for

any reason your child is not in school, then Caterlink and Bellrock will have staff trained on these days to be able to register your child on their return.

There are still top-up box facilities within the school to top-up accounts for school meals (please note, these machines only take cash and do not give change), but could I please encourage you all to use WisePay to make payments for both trips and catering when available.

Yours sincerely

Mike Hoffmann
Acting Headteacher