



# Windsor High School and Sixth Form

Headteacher: Mr K W Sorrell, B.Ed. (Hons), MA

Richmond Street  
Halesowen  
West Midlands  
B63 4BB

Tel: 0121 550 1452  
Fax: 0121 585 0610

Website:  
[www.windsor.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.windsor.dudley.gov.uk)

October 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Implementation of a cashless catering system**

To further enhance and improve the school's catering service, we will be installing during October 2009 a "cashless catering system."

During the summer this year we installed a new servery, signage and entrance doors, and last summer we completely refurbished and modernised the dining area.

This final development will give our pupils a really impressive 21<sup>st</sup> century catering service, and reflects the schools commitment to improve all facilities for our pupils and staff.

### **The Cashless Biometric System**

The system the school has purchased is an "IMPACT Biometric cashless catering system", and will be supplied by Cunningham's, who are a tried and tested supplier of this technology.

The system will be installed mid October, with the biometric registration of pupils scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October, ready for the system to "go live" on the Thursday and Friday (22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October) - just before the school breaks-up for the October half-term holiday.

We believe that this new system will enable us to deliver a more efficient and faster service, whilst at the same time continuing to provide wholesome, healthy and enjoyable meals at a competitive price.

The cashless system to be installed will operate using biometric (finger-print) technology. I would like to reassure parents about this technology. Basically the system uses an image of the fingerprint to create a mathematical identifier and then the fingerprint is disregarded. Only the number identifier remains in the system which cannot be reinterpreted back into a fingerprint.

Enclosed is a pack of information for pupils and parents to read, which gives further information about how the new system will operate. This also includes information about the biometric technology and answers to some frequently asked questions.

*Anyone who does not feel comfortable with this technology can "opt-out" of the biometric registration process – to do this complete and return the "impact Biometrics Opt-out form" at the bottom of the attached sheet.*

The School will ensure that all pupils are fully informed of and given training on how to use the system.

I sincerely hope that you as parents/guardians will fully support this system and encourage your son/daughter to use our catering service. Some of the benefits of this system will include;

1. A more convenient way to pay for school meals – ie no more looking for change every morning.
2. By pre-paying direct to the school you know your child will be eating a wholesome healthy balanced meal in school, rather than spending their “dinner money” on sweets and crisps at local shops on their way to and from school.
3. Alleviating many of the associated problems with the use of cash in schools.
4. Queuing times are reduced through increased speed of service
5. Automatic free meal allocation – with these pupils remaining anonymous.
6. Pupils having control of their own catering accounts, and using the system teaches important life skills.
7. Enable the school to provide you as parents with information about what your son/daughter has spent their dinner money on.

Yours sincerely

K W Sorrell  
Headteacher