



BANBRIDGE ACADEMY

ESTABLISHED 1786

18 November 2010

Ref: RP/SJ

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are aware we have been very fortunate in school to have a new Dining Hall as part of the Extension and Refurbishment of our buildings. Now that pupils are familiar with the system, the Southern Education and Library Board plan to introduce a cashless system of operation. This of course does not mean that meals are not paid for but rather that a system is used which does not involve the exchange of cash.

The selected food items are entered into the system from an itemised keyboard by the till operator. The pupils are recognised by initially having their fingerprints registered, and then on each occasion when they purchase an item, they place their finger on a scanner at the point of sale where a display will show the till operator the pupil's name, class and current cash balance held within the system. It must be stressed that your child's fingerprint is only used for this purpose and cannot be used by any other agency. The software which is used converts the fingerprint to an alpha numeric number and then the image is discarded. The information that is stored cannot be used to recreate an image of the child's fingerprint. When your son/daughter places his/her finger on the scanner the software matches the fingerprint with the unique alpha numeric number held in the database.

Money is lodged into the system by using an automatic cash revaluation terminal, two of which are located in school, which is able to accept coins in the following denominations 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2. Once again scanning the fingerprint is at the heart of this procedure. The system will be installed in school on Monday 22 November and pupils will be trained in its use on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 November with a view to commencing full operation on Monday 29 November.

This is a very convenient and easy to use system but if you do not wish your son/daughter to be registered you may of course **opt out** by completing the proforma below and returning it to the Form Teacher. The information stored in the system is used only for school meals and will not be made available to any third party.

Should you have any questions or indeed wish to have the system demonstrated to you please contact the school and this can be arranged.

Yours sincerely

Cashless System

I do not wish my child to be registered to use the cashless system in the Dining Hall

Name: _____ Year Group: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____