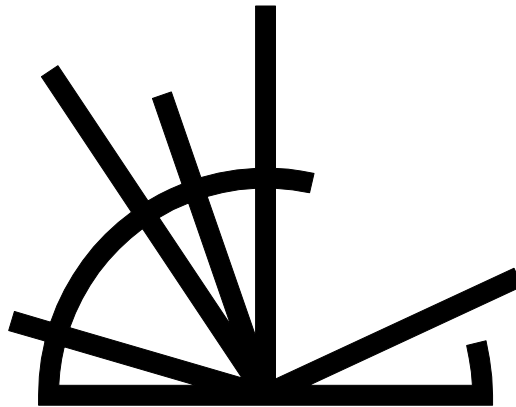# CASHLESS CATERING SYSTEM FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Heston Community School

What is a cashless catering system?
A system that allows parents to credit their Child's account online and view purchases, spend and dietary details of meals and other items bought from the School Canteen.

The main benefits
* A convenient way of paying for school meals - no more looking for change every morning.

* Discourages the misuse of school dinner money through spending in shops outside of the school grounds.

* Alleviates many of the associated problems with the use of cash in schools i.e: loss, theft and bullying.

* Specific food allergy ingredients can be barred automatically.

* Healthy eating is encouraged.

* Queuing times are reduced through increased speed of service.

* Automatic free meal allocation with the student remaining anonymous.

* Detailed reports to analyse all aspects of the use of the system.

* Having control of student accounts by students using the Impact system teaches important life skills.

* A more efficient delivery of service helps the caterer to provide wholesome, healthy and enjoyable school meals at a low cost.

How are students recognised by the system?
Each student will have images of a finger of each hand registered which will then be translated into an Alpha Numeric number, the images are then discarded. When the finger is presented and scanned, the student's number is found on the system and their meals data is accessible.

How is this then used to obtain a school meal?
The student simply places their finger on a scanner at the point of sale; a display will show the server the student's name, class and current cash balance held within the system. The selected food items will be entered into the system from an itemised keyboard while the amount spent and the new cash balance will show on the display.

How is money entered into the system?
(a)   Online Payments. Each parent will be supplied with unique login details which can then be used to log on to the Online Payment Portal on the schools website and add credit to their child's account.

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How will the student be able to check what the current cash balance is held in the system at any one time?
(a) Online by logging onto the Online Payment system.
(b) By using the revaluation station in the 'Hogarth Building'. There is no need to deposit any money, just press the reset button to finish.
(c) Also a Remote Display at the point of sale will show the new cash balance when the food service is finished.

If we pay for a set number of school meals, can it be spent in one day?
No, a daily spend limit of £5.00 has been set by default. On request, a spending limit of your choice could also be set, or you could change the parameters associated with your child through the payment portal.

What if the student does not hold a sufficient cash balance one day to pay for a school dinner?
As before, no student is refused a school dinner because they have not brought their dinner money to school with them. The School will allow for the student to loan money for one day. However, just as before, the student would be expected to bring some money with them the next day to repay the loan and re-credit the system by using the revaluation station.

What about students entitled to a 'free school meal'?
The system works exactly the same for all students whether they pay or have a free school meal. All students have their own account to use in exactly the same way. The amount allocated for the free school meal will be entered into the system by the software daily and will only be accessible at lunch break.

The system will then allow on a daily basis the required cash amount for each individual student to be allotted to their current cash balance. However, any under spend or missed lunch will be identified by the system and will not be added to the next day's balance.

Students can also add extra cash to his or her balance by using the revaluation station in the Hogarth Building to enable a greater daily spend on the school lunch than allocated by their free meal allowance. Parents can also add to this allowance by adding cash to the students account online.

Will students have problems in using this system?
Some students may find it difficult to control their accounts for the first couple of weeks, but because of a daily spend limit, most learn this important life skill very quickly and will enjoy being in control of their account.

Will I have access to information about my child and what they buy each day and how the system is being used?
Reports can be obtained from the system giving comprehensive information on all aspects of use for each individual student as well as each day's service. These reports can be for a specific day or between any dates you wish, they will be dated and timed to the minute, and can be accessed via the 'School website.'

- To show every item of food served and the total cost of each serving.

- Each payment made by cash at the revaluation station by the student.

Heston Community School

- A total overview to show the date, time and location with cost of each purchase,

- The system also support further online payments for example for trips, books, exam resits, school uniforms and charitable donations.

Data Handling
Certain data will be held on the system to enable accurate operation. This will include your child's name, class, photo, WisePay account balance and meal entitlement. This data will be handled under the guidelines of the data protection act and only used by parties directly involved with the implementation of the system. If you have any concerns please contact the School's Business Manager.

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