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Dear Parents

As you know we use a cashless payment system for buying school meals and refreshments in the canteen. During the pandemic we stopped using biometric fingerprint technology and used account cards instead. However, we prefer students to use biometric finger recognition technology to access their account as it is far more efficient and secure. Students who started at Oathall between March 2020 and the current time have not had their fingerprints scanned to access their canteen accounts biometrically.

We have reinstated biometrics for other year groups and we would now like to register students in Y7 & Y8 so they can use their fingerprints. In order to do this we require your consent.

[Please complete this form to consent or not to your child's fingerprint being scanned and registered for biometric use in the canteen.](#)

Information about biometrics at Oathall

We have now returned to using biometrics as this is the fastest way of allowing students to buy their food or drink. It reduces the chances of a student losing or damaging canteen cards and is a more secure method of paying. Once a student has their fingerprint registered, their thumb/finger can be used on a scanning device at the till to identify them, and their account will be used to pay for their food or drink. This is a very secure and efficient system.

To obtain a unique biometric template a subset of unique features of the fingerprint are extracted from a scanned image. This template, a binary number, is checked against the template generated each time a student places their finger on the scanner. **Full fingerprint images are not stored** and it is extremely unlikely that a usable fingerprint image could be generated (reverse engineered) from the template. The biometric data will only be used for catering purchases and not for any other systems (such as registration or library services).

Biometric alternatives

We understand that not everyone feels confident about using biometric technology. Also, occasionally a student's fingerprint will not scan correctly and they cannot be registered biometrically. In these instances, we give the student a card with their unique account details on it. They show this at the till to access their account. We encourage parents to allow their child to register biometrically as we do find that children with cards frequently lose them or damage them. Getting a replacement card can inconvenience them and you will be charged for the replacement card.

Please note there is no change to how you add money to your child's canteen account or free school meal allowances.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Mrs J Godbolt
Business Manager