



16<sup>TH</sup> October 2009

### ***Launch of Kingsbridge Community College Cashless Catering System***

I wrote to you in June to say that we were considering the introduction of a cashless catering system. We received three comments, both favourable and with reservations, and the Governors have decided to proceed. We are launching our system on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, immediately after half term.

We will begin enrolling students on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. The software captures a digital signature of your child's middle fingertip. This is then broken down into data points, similar to reference points on a map. The software then turns these into an alpha numeric string which is then encrypted and stored on our own College server. No-one has access to this information and the stored data points can never be viewed as anything other than a string of numbers and letters, so please be assured that this software is very secure. Once enrolled, as each student reaches the catering till points they will place their enrolled finger on a scanner to make a payment for their food. No cash is required.

***Please visit the ParentPay website during the half term break and pay for a minimum of one week's worth of purchases for your child. If you do not have access to the internet, you can use the Paypoint facility at local stores. Please contact the Finance Office for a barcode to be able to do this. Please refer to the ParentPay letter we sent out in September.***

The new technology means that students do not need to carry cash. Children on free school meal allowance will have the amount automatically added to their account, and you can add to it if you wish. The system will reduce queuing time and so make the catering service a more pleasant experience for all children. There will be dispensers of antiseptic solution in the Canteen and by the tills to maintain hygiene. We will of course have contingency measures in place to help students in emergency situations who do not have credit in their account and who need to be able to buy lunch.

We hope that this will result in improved service and in the meantime please contact me with any concerns and do please keep us in touch with your views on how it is going.

With best wishes

Yours Sincerely

**ROGER POPE  
PRINCIPAL**