



Watford Grammar School for Boys
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11/06/2010

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that, following the successful award of a government grant, we are installing a new cashless catering system from Cunninghams as part of the refurbishment of the canteen that is taking place over the summer holidays. We are sure that you will appreciate the advantages the new system will offer to both parents and pupils. The cashless system will enable us to deliver a more efficient, faster service and to continue to provide wholesome, healthy, and enjoyable meals at the lowest cost. It will also enable you to see what your son is eating at school.

In preparation for the cashless system, your son's finger print will be partially scanned next month in order to link him to the system. **The image will be discarded after it has created the link and can not be used outside of the school system to identify your son.** The system will become fully operational on the induction day, Thursday 2nd September, for Year 7 and Lower Sixth pupils, and Friday 3rd September for the rest of the school. From this date, therefore, no cash can be accepted at any of the food tills. An additional eating area, decorated in the style of 'Costa Coffee' and with extended opening hours, will be created in the current foyer to the theatre. This refurbished area will also have computers for use by parents, both during school and after-hours. More information on how to book these computers will follow.

From September there will be two ways of paying for your son's meals. To maximise the benefit of the cashless system to you and to prepare for the national removal of cheque payments, the school is investing in Parent Pay. This will allow you to pay for school meals using either a secure on-line account or a card at any shop displaying the PayPoint symbol. In this way you are sure that the money you pay for school meals goes on nutritious food. These methods will be extended to include other areas to enable automatic payments of items such as school trips and music fees. The second method of payment is to either send a cheque into school, made payable to Eden Food Services, or cash. A new pay station will be installed in the canteen to accept your son's cash payments. Please note that cash cannot be used to buy food directly at the tills. The station is programmed to accept £20, £10, £5 notes and £2, £1, 50p, 20p and 10p coins. In both cases the cash and cheque will be credited to your son's account which he can then use to purchase food in the dining areas. A free school meals allowance will be automatically added to those pupils who qualify for this.

Any amount of money can be paid into your son's account and held within the system. Money spent on food for the canteen will be deducted from your son's account. There is an automatic daily 'spend limit' programmed into the system of £5.00, although this can be changed for your son on an individual basis by making a written request to the school's canteen manager, Mrs J Watkins. Online itemised reports detailing what your son has eaten for a specific time period are also available.

A FAQs sheet can be found on the front page of the school website which should address some of your queries. In addition, a representative from Cunninghams will be available for a Parents' Consultation Evening held in the main school hall at 17:00 on the 21st June 2010 to answer any further questions that you may have. Alternatively please feel free to contact either of us directly.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Carr
Assistant Head (ICT Development)

Mr K Thorold
Assistant Head (Resources)