The Carlton Academy

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June 2021

Dear Parent

Upgrade to cashless catering biometric solutions to include facial recognition

We have operated a cashless catering solution in school for some time. This allows parents to make payments online using ParentPay. As part of this solution, we have used biometric technology in the form of a digital scan of a finger print which is used at the point of payment for items purchased in school. This system reduces queue times due to not handling cash at the point of payment.

Upgrade to the systems

In June we will be upgrading the system, this includes adding facial recognition as an additional part of the biometric solution. This has been proven to be quicker and more reliable than the existing finger scan technology and also reduces the need for making physical contact with a finger scanner used by other users.

Linked here is a flyer from the product provider that outlines the technology and some answers to common questions. This is a completely secure product that meets all legal requirements in relation to Data Protection and is used in many other schools.

Facial recognition will further speed up service and reduce queue times. If students do not wish to use facial recognition they will be able to continue to use their existing finger scan or PIN code.

Consent and implementation

If you have previously consented to the use of biometric technology we do not require additional consent because you have already consented to the use of special category data Biometrics.

We propose to undertake a data capture for students in current years 7-10 and 12 before the end of the summer term.

Students who have previously used the finger scan system will be offered an opportunity to have a facial recognition capture. There is no obligation to do so, however we encourage the use of this new system as it will improve the speed of service and limit physical contact with devices and is more hygienic.

Change of consent

If you have **previously not consented** to using biometric technology in school and your child uses a PIN code, you can now consent to the use of biometric technology by completing the MS Form linked here. Please complete this by 25 June 2021. We will then update our records and offer your child the opportunity to use the facial recognition system.

Cash loaders and on-line payments

We will continue to have one cash loader in school, based in main reception. This will only be used using a finger print or PIN number as these devices do not support facial recognition software. We encourage parents to make as much use of online payment systems as they can in order to limit cash coming into school, however, this will still be available.

Moving ahead, we will be looking at linking with Pay Point systems which will allow you to put money onto our system via shops that support this method.

I would be grateful if you would discuss this letter with your child. Many thanks for your on-going support.

Robert Linthwaite
Operations Manager