



Catering

CASHLESS DINING FOR STUDENTS

We operate a cashless Biometric system at our school. A finger-tip reading is taken for each student; this then enables students to purchase food and drinks without using cash. This is linked to Arbor which is a platform where you can pay for lunches (and school trips etc.), this is the same system that is used for all communication and information such as timetables and Parents Evening bookings.

How the system operates

- Each student has an individual meal account which is secure and private.
- Monies are added to the account by parent/guardian or student; the account should be kept in credit. Please see instructions on how to set an alert for low balance on lunch and trip account.
- Students make their selection and take their food to the tills. The cashier uses a scanner to identify the student through their finger-tip reading, the student's photograph is displayed for verification. A record is kept of purchases and spending each day.
- For students entitled to free school meals, the value of their entitlement is credited daily just before lunchtime. Additional cash can also be added to their account if wished.

Benefits of cashless lunches for Parents

- The hassle of finding cash each day is removed.
- Information on what your child is eating is easily accessible to you.
- Balance statements are available on request.
- Money on your child's account can only be spent in the Dining Room.
- There is less chance of money being lost or stolen.

CREDITING YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT

We encourage use of the online payment facility Arbor. Details on how to set up a new account will be issued during the first week in school.

In order for your child to have funds available on their first day, please ensure that cash (approx. £3) is brought into school on the first day in a sealed envelope with your child's name, form and lunch money written on it.

Whilst we are trying to move away from cash being brought in for lunches, if there is an issue with the online payment system, we will accept cash on that day. School has no provision to change money so please send your child in with the correct money.

Cash can be deposited in a secure Green Box in reception. Money received by 11.30am will be credited to their account before lunch.

The daily spending limit is set at £7.00. If you wish to change this, please email epchs.finance@epchs.co.uk specifying your child's name and form and the daily limit you wish your child to have.

Please ensure that your child has credit on their account, as the school does not have the facility to loan money.





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NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMME

At least half a million children in the UK arrive at school each day too hungry to learn. Research has shown a direct link between the breakfast habits of children and their educational attainment, with children in primary schools where breakfast is provided achieving on average up to two months' additional academic progress over the course of a year.

Our exciting National School Breakfast Programme, in partnership with Magic Breakfast and funded by the Department for Education, is working to support 2500 schools in disadvantaged communities across the country to improve access to healthy breakfasts and learning.

The service aims to:

- Ensure more children receive a healthy breakfast at the start of their day.
- Improve educational outcomes of disadvantaged young people.
- Share best practices across schools and encourage innovative approaches to school breakfast provision.

We here at EPCHS are lucky enough to be part of this incredible scheme and are delighted to provide a FREE breakfast to ALL our students, staff, parents and visitors.

Available Monday to Friday 08.00 – 08.40, we serve, healthy bagels, cereals and porridge. Your young adult can help themselves to as much or as little as they would like. The Dining Room is open during those times, to meet friends, chat to others from different years and to prepare for a day of learning with a full stomach.

We look forward to seeing you.

FOOD ALLERGIES / INTOLERANCES

From December 2014 the Food Information Regulations (FIR) came into force meaning it is a mandatory legal responsibility of caterers to provide the correct allergen information about the ingredients served to customers. This information can be found on our website.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

PACKED LUNCH VS SCHOOL LUNCH

Choosing a school lunch can save you time and money.

Did you know that the average cost of a packed lunch from home is about £2.73 and how many times do you have to re stock as the packed lunch favourites have been eaten at home?!