



10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about planned changes to the school's cashless catering systems during next half term. As you may be aware, the current tills and supporting systems have been in place for some time and the move to a new system will allow for easier processing by the kitchen staff teams and clearer visibility around reporting of transactions.

### **Till system and topping up account balances – No longer using SQUID**

The system being introduced is Vericool and will link to the My Child at School ("MCAS") app that is already widely used for trips and activities. You will be able to use your existing MCAS account to top up funds for meals, and you will be able to see dinner money as an option to purchase closer to the time of the changeover.

**MCAS will replace the Squid system** that is currently being used. You do not need to wind down your account balance in Squid prior to the changeover, any unspent balance in Squid at the date of the move will be transferred over into MCAS and will be available for use at the till in the normal way. We would ask that you do not make any more top ups to your Squid balance after the date noted in the timeline section below (Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March).

We will provide a detailed guide on the use of MCAS to make account top up payments after half term. We would encourage all families where possible to use MCAS for school meals, either directly on the app, or via Pay Point which has now been enabled for all student accounts. (Please refer to Pay Point letter recently issued, a copy of which is held on the school website)

Where there are concerns around either the use of MCAS or Pay Point, please contact the school reception or email [mcas@bramcote.college](mailto:mcas@bramcote.college). Please note there will be no option for students to bring cash into school to top up their accounts. The top up must be done through the MCAS app using a debit card or by taking cash to a Pay Point location.

For students in receipt of free school meals, a daily meal allowance will be added to the system automatically, as it currently is, and no further action is required from families.

### **Access to student accounts at point of sale**

Payment for purchases through the new till system will be controlled as it is currently, by fingerprint access. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March each child for whom the school holds the relevant consent, will have their fingerprint taken for the Vericool system. Where consent is not held, a PIN number option will be available to allow for payment at the till. Should your child be absent from school on that day they will need to visit the school canteen at their earliest opportunity.

## Allergens

Allergen data that has been provided to the school will be transferred onto the Vericool system. Please could we request that families check current allergen details on your child's MCAS account and update those if anything has changed. This will ensure that the most up to date information is held in the till system to cross reference to your child at point of sale. Allergen details are held within the Medical Conditions section of MCAS.

## Timetable

The changeover of systems will happen during w/c **6<sup>th</sup> March**.

**8<sup>th</sup> March** is fingerprint day – this will be managed within the school day (see notes above should your child be absent on that day).

Please do not top up your Squid balance after **8<sup>th</sup> March**. Whilst we will be able to access records of any top ups made in error after this date, we would appreciate it if they could be avoided.

**10<sup>th</sup> March** is the first day Vericool will be used.

More information will be made available in the coming weeks, however please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Mrs L Chan

School Administrator