

Turton High School of Media Arts College

MIDAS System



Turton High School of Media Arts College is the latest college to adopt Infineer MIDAS Cashless Catering System. With a school population of around 1,200 the Infineer system was chosen for various benefits that it will bring:

- Queue times being reduced during peak times
- Increase in students using Free School Meals, as using fingerprints now makes it anonymous.
- A good tool in introducing money management to students.

Turton's existing catering was controlled by cash payments. Using cash at the till slows up the canteen process and makes it difficult to get all pupils through the canteen in the allotted lunch time. What slows up the process is the till operatives having to find the correct change. It also identifies children with 'free school meals' as they have to hand over vouchers and can result in bullying. With biometrics there is no need for change as the money is credited from their account and no pupil can see another pupils account therefore 'free school meal' users are not identified. This eliminates the stigma attached with the 'free school meal' vouchers.

It has been a welcome change by the staff and students of Turton. Alison Bailey, Business Manger of Turton says that the "Students have been enthusiastic about the change". It also means that "all money given by parents to students will be spent on meals". This ensures greater revenue for the canteen and a greater take up of students.

Turton had originally wanted to go with a

card based system, but after explaining to them the benefits of biometrics and the advantages it had over the card based system they chose biometrics. They liked the idea of avoiding such issues as lost cards and passing on the cost of resupplying a new card to the student. Biometrics cuts out a lot of problems with it only needing the pupils fingerprint as ID. It was also explained to the pupils that a fingerprint will not be stored on file but will be converted to an algorithm that cannot be converted back to a fingerprint. This therefore ticks the boxes for data protection in a school environment.

The pupils' accounts can either be topped up onsite by themselves using the supplied kiosks or by bringing in cheques payable to the school, with the school aiming to have them put on the system by lunch if they are received that morning. There will be no limit on the amount to top-up the account or a limit on payment dates.

We also emphasise that we design the software in house enabling us to customise the system onsite.



For further information:

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