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St Michael's
Catholic Academy

Head Teacher: Clare Humble

Deputy Head(s): Marc Scott, Clare Carey
& Matthew McAuley

BHCET CEO: Stuart McGhee

BHCET Chair of Directors: Yvonne Coates

17 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Catering self-serve kiosks and a new outdoor pod

Exciting news from St Michael's Catholic Academy! We're delighted to introduce brand-new self-serve kiosks in the school dining hall to give students a faster, easier way to access tasty and nutritious school meals.

From **24 June 2026**, students will be able to order their lunch using the self-serve kiosks just like their favourite quick serve restaurants. Students will place their order following the onscreen options and use their fingerprint or a pin code to securely pay. Students will receive a receipt which they then take to the dining area to collect their food order. Staff will be on hand to guide students through this new process.

When making their choices students will be able to view allergen information for each item before making their selection. The system also allows school to restrict certain items where necessary. In addition, staff will be available to support students with any questions or concerns regarding allergens. If you have any specific concerns about your child, please contact the school directly.

With the introduction of this new technology, we will be a completely **cashless academy**. You will only be able to add money on your child's meal account through your Arbor parent app. The app will also show you what purchases your child has made and how much they are spending each day. Please contact the school office if you require assistance with the parent app. If your child is in receipt of a free school meal their daily allowance will be automatically uploaded to your child's meal account.

This new system means that students are required to pay for items before they receive them. Therefore, it is important to note that if your child does not have sufficient funds on their meal account, they will be unable to make their chosen purchases. If your child's meal account currently has an outstanding balance, we kindly ask that this is topped up at your earliest convenience. Please be assured that no student will go without a meal. However, where balances remain unpaid, this will restrict the options available to your child.

If your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, there will be a designated area for students who bring a packed lunches. However, students with packed lunches will still have the option to purchase items from the dining hall or the outdoor catering pod if they wish to do so.

New outdoor catering pod:

We are also pleased to introduce our new outdoor catering pod, providing students with a quicker and more convenient way to purchase food. The pod will offer a range of grab-and-go items, along with drinks and snacks, allowing students to make purchases from its outdoor location. Students are not required to use the new self-service system when purchasing from the catering pod.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Humble', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Clare Humble
Headteacher



Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with your God