



## Bio – what?

Biometrics authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics. By measuring an individual's physical features in an authentication inquiry and comparing this data with stored biometric reference data, the identity of a specific user is determined. There are many different biometric features that can be used for authentication purposes these include fingerprint, signature, iris, retina, DNA or any other unique characteristic. Once a characteristic has been chosen the next stage in the Biometric process is authentication. A biometric feature is saved on to a database. Once the data has been stored, a new scanning of the biometric feature is taken. If the comparison is positive, access to the appropriate application is granted.

# IMPACT

The future is in your hands!

## A history of biometrics

Once the domain of the local constabulary, fingerprint technology is now being used at many locations around the country. Banks, supermarkets and now even schools and colleges are adopting this increasingly popular technology. Biometrics are not new, their roots have been traced back to ancient Egyptian times. The use of fingerprints as a security device started with Chinese officials using them to seal documents in the second century BC. Over the last few years the technology has begun to find favor commercially.

Whilst the use of Biometrics has been steadily growing over the last ten years, the past couple of years have seen an explosion in development, interest and vendor involvement.



# Impact Biometrics is coming to Duchess's Community High School

12 July 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

We are going to be upgrading our catering payment systems in time for September 2017. As part of this, we will be moving away from the use of dinner cards and we will be using a biometric, cashless payment system, which means that your child can pay, by using their finger (they are also issued with a pin number). You can continue to use Schoolcomms to top up your child's account or students can do this in school as they currently do with cash.



## Biometrics and Security

Students, parents and staff can rest assured that the fingerprint images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the fingerprint to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the fingerprint; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a fingerprint image. Fingerprinting is purely voluntary and those not wishing to sign up will still be able to use a pin number.

Make up of a fingerprint



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why do you need to take my child's fingerprint?

By taking an image of your child's fingerprint we can turn this information into a digital signature. This unique image will then be used to replace their current swipe card.

### Can fingerprints be used by any other agency?

No, the software we use turns your child's fingerprint into a mathematical algorithm. The image of the fingerprint is then discarded. The information that is stored cannot be used to recreate an image of the child's fingerprint.

### What happens when my child leaves the School?

When a student leaves school all data can be deleted very easily.

### How does it work?

When the child places his/her finger on the scanner, the software matches their fingerprint with the unique digital signature held in the database.

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## Impact Biometrics Opt-In form

I do wish my child to be included in the Impact Biometric registration process

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent or carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_