

Finance at Aylsham High School including ParentPay and Free School Meals

ParentPay is the preferred payment method at AHS. Just like other forms of internet shopping you can add items to the basket and check out using your debit or credit card. It is a safe, secure way to pay and you will receive an email receipt from ParentPay when your payment has been made. Payments are easily traceable and not buried in pockets or bags.

Most items that need to be paid for will be added to your ParentPay account, there will only be a few occasions where your child will need to bring cash in to school, for example if there is a charity cake sale, or for the sale of sports day t-shirts which are only sold on the day.

In the summer term before your child starts high school you will receive a letter with the ParentPay username and password for your child's account, a FAQ user guide and a letter asking for some payments to get your child started at AHS. If you have not received this letter by the last week of term please let us know.

Please log in as soon as you receive your password details as it is important that you have the ParentPay account up and running before your child starts at the school. The FAQ user guide will help you to get started.

There will be items available to purchase before your child starts at AHS such as a locker, calculators and geometry sets.

Using the Canteen

AHS runs a cashless catering system, meaning that no cash can be paid at the tills. The system works using a biometric fingerprint system which you will have been asked to give your permission for. If you have not given permission then your child can still access the canteen by giving their name at the tills.

The school canteen caters for all staff and students from our tiny year 7's to our 16 year old rugby players at breakfast, break and lunchtime. There are many choices for all appetites and menus/price lists are available on the school website.

Please talk to your child about making sensible, healthy choices and we would advise that they bring a water bottle which can be refilled for free at our water dispensers.

In order for your child to be able to use the canteen you will need to ensure that there is a balance on their canteen account. The canteen balance can always be viewed on ParentPay.

Please make sure there are enough funds on your child's account for them to buy something if they need to. If they do not have enough money on their account they will not be served by the canteen staff. We do have an overdraft request system which is for emergencies only and should not be used as a regular service. Your child will need to come to the finance office to ask for an overdraft before they go to the canteen.

There is an option to set up an auto-top up if the canteen balance falls below a certain amount, which requires a direct debit to be held with ParentPay. If you wish to use this option please follow the instructions on the ParentPay screen.

There is also an option to set a reminder email if the balance falls below a certain amount.

Our canteen experience is very different to that at junior school and the temptation to spend everything is high! Therefore we would encourage you to talk to your child about managing their money which is an essential life skill for the future. A daily spend limit can also be added to their account if necessary. Please contact the finance office to arrange this.

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals an allowance (£2.60, September 2024) will be added to their canteen account each day and is removed if it is not spent. This is enough for a balanced meal and pudding or drink at lunch time but please be aware that it can be used for anything else in the canteen during the day so can be spent before lunch time arrives, or on alternatives to the main meal option at lunch time. The allowance will not show on your ParentPay balance but your child will soon get used to how much food or drink the allowance will buy. If you add any money via ParentPay this will not be used until the allowance has been spent that day.

Please contact us at finance@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk if you have any questions.