



# SJFA

Parents Association of St. John Fisher Catholic High School  
c/o 49 Church Drive, East Keswick, Leeds, LS17 9EP

January 2009

Dear Parents

At the last SJFA meeting on Wednesday 14 January 2009, the Head Teacher, Mr Jackson, outlined a plan to introduce to parents the opportunity to use an online payment scheme. The system currently being investigated in conjunction with a group of local schools is called "Parentpay", a web service which allows parents to make secure online payments to schools using debit cards. Use of credit cards is not being considered.

Parentpay allows payment to be made wherever and whenever parents wish, it would eliminate the need to search for cash or write cheques to send to school, removing the burden and responsibility of students handling and carrying cash.

It helps school by reducing administration in counting cash and preparing cheques for banking. The money goes directly into the school bank account. The school is initially intending to use the system for the catering service - Parentpay allows parents to top up students' accounts online and view balance information. In time, it could be extended to accept payment for trips and other payments.

There is a "service charge" of approximately 30p per debit card transaction, which is normally borne by the school. The charge for credit cards is substantially higher and that is why the school does not intend to include the use of credit cards.

**The ability to pay by cash or cheque for catering in the first instance and later, for school trips etc, will always remain.**

The Head and the Bursar have asked SJFA to sound out parents on their attitude to such a system and potential service charges as well as their views on restricting payment method to debit cards. They require a response in time for a meeting in early February.

To this end we would be grateful to receive your response to the attached questions by no later than 31 January 2009. Please copy and paste return your questionnaire by e mail to [gawaterfield@gmail.com](mailto:gawaterfield@gmail.com)

Thank you for your co-operation

Yours sincerely

SJFA Committee