

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Ellenbrook Secondary College will be implementing a new student ID/attendance system in 2018 called *Academy*.

Our College Board, which comprises various staff, parents and community members, approved the use of Academy at a meeting on 27 November, 2017.

What is Academy?

Academy is a school and student management system which provides schools with more efficient and effective tools for managing student attendance and parent communications. Academy is utilised by various WA schools with large student numbers, including Churchlands Senior High School and Byford Secondary College. The Department of Education has released an article on their website about such ID systems previously [here](#).

Once implemented, Academy will facilitate recording and monitoring student attendance more quickly and accurately, which ultimately increases safety for our students.

How does the Kiosk operate?

Using a card or finger biometrics, students can sign in and select from a set of reasons for arriving late / leaving school early or accessing first aid, etc. at 'kiosks' (computer terminals) across the College. This includes leaving school for offsite classes or work related activities. The College has included the biometric finger ID for sign in as the preference because students often lose ID cards.

How does the Biometrics operate?

Using a built in scanner, the software scans a finger or thumb tip to create and store individual templates of unique points that identify each student. When a student requires a pass for leaving or entering the college, the software again scans the finger and looks for a match in the database.

What about privacy of Biometrics?

Academy does not store a copy of the fingerprint. Instead, it creates a numeric template of the unique fingerprint characteristics by scanning points on a student's finger or thumb and converting the measurements to a number that is linked to the student's name. This is not the same as taking a finger print, which captures the finger entirely.

This template is stored via the software on the college's secure computer server and is deleted when the student is no longer enrolled at the college. **At no time is a**



fingerprint image stored. The image cannot be replicated and used by other agencies or systems.

It is important to us that your child's experience at school is educational and rewarding. We hope you will find this new system safe, easy, accurate and efficient. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone the college on 9297 9700.

For detailed information about the new ID system and biometric finger scans, please see the document on our website.

Should you choose to opt your child/ren out of the biometric finger scan prior to or after the scan, please email with your child's full name and year confirming your intention to: Ellenbrook.SC@education.wa.edu.au. The College will update the system and your child will instead need to enter their details manually to use the attendance kiosk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter Havel
Principal
Ellenbrook Secondary College

13 February 2018