

16 November 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Modern classrooms require students to have access to a personal computing device. All year 7 to 12 students at Hawkesdale P12 are expected to have such a device with them each day. Not having such a device puts them at a disadvantage. Hawkesdale P12 has a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) model for personal device use in classes; in this model, students use a privately purchased device chosen by them as their 1:1 device at school. It is essential that students have a suitable device for their personal use in classes and for home study. Students use the device to access their online text books, as well as for research and the production of work. There are a range of possible devices available that will meet the requirements of study at school and at home. I have provided some guidance below to support you in making an appropriate choice.

It should be noted that small mobile devices such as iPods, iPad Mini, smart phones and eBook readers are not eligible as the principal 1:1 device because of OH&S concerns, although they can be brought to school for occasional use. Hawkesdale P12 technical staff will provide access for students with appropriate BYOT devices to the school wireless network and the internet, and will also provide access to Web 2.0 tools, Google apps and the full Microsoft Office 365 suite of software, including Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Parents will be required to cover all ongoing maintenance and repair costs to BYOT devices; each of the recommended devices listed in the hardware portal (website details can be found at the end of this letter) have insurance options linked to them, and I would strongly encourage parents to consider this carefully.

What device do I need to provide?

We recognise that a "one size fits all" netbook approach does not suit all students. The BYOT program allows families to provide a privately purchased device which can be sourced from any vendor. The device can be one of the following types provided the minimum specifications are met.

- Laptop - This includes Windows 10 and Apple devices that meet the minimum laptop specification and usually have larger screens and keyboards.
- Netbook - This includes Windows and Apple devices that meet the minimum laptop specification but are usually much smaller and lighter than a full size laptop. They can have limitations like a smaller keyboard or no DVD. This may include ex-primary school netbooks only where they meet the minimum specifications.

Families should ensure the device meets the minimum specifications provided by the College, and that the students have access to appropriate support for both maintenance and use along with insurance.

Do I need to purchase software?

Given that Web 2.0 tools, Google apps and the full Microsoft Office 365 suite of software will be provided for student use by the school without cost, families should use their discretion when considering additional software purchases.

Minimum BYOT Device Specifications

The purchase of 3G/4G mobile data enabled devices is not recommended as this could expose students to cyber-safety risks while at school.

All Laptops and netbooks

- Maximum age – 4 years
- Current warranty and insurance recommended
- Robust carry bag
- Minimum expected battery life of 7 hours
- Minimum 4GB RAM.
- Wireless network adaptor (WiFi) that supports A/N or B/G/N 802.11
- Windows
 - Windows 10 installed. (**Windows RT and Windows 10S is not acceptable or supported by the college's network**)
 - Celeron or greater processor
- Apple
 - Mac OSX 10.9 or greater installed

All Tablets

- Recommended age – 2 years. Tablets generally have a shorter support lifespan both on warranty and software.
- Current warranty and insurance recommended
- Robust carry bag or cover
- Minimum 10" screen size (not iPad Mini, iPod's, etc)
- Minimum expected battery life of 7 hours
- Windows
 - Windows 10 installed. (Windows RT is not acceptable)
 - Minimum 2GB Ram
 - Minimum 64GB storage recommended
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Chromebooks are not recommended.

Note: Any Android, Windows RT and Linux devices are currently not 100% compatible with Education Department systems and should not be used as the primary 1:1 device for students.

Families should note that these are **minimum** specifications. Selection of a device better than these is acceptable but not required, and you should consider personal preferences and uses in determining the best device for your child.

There are a number of local and online suppliers that can help you make a purchase. The school does not favour one over the other, however the Learning With Technologies online portal <http://school.orderportal.com.au> is well set up and gives good guidance to the price range and insurance options available. The school strongly suggests taking out accidental damage insurance.

It is expected that all year 7 to 12 students will have their own BYOT device at school no later than the beginning of term one, 2018. Parents wishing to purchase a device earlier for their child to use are welcome to do so. Please contact me if you have any questions or need advice.

Yours sincerely,

Colan Distel

Principal
Hawkesdale P12 College