BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

AT EDGEWATER COLLEGE IN 2016

BACKGROUND

The College has been working towards integrating e-learning into classes over the last 3 years. We have invested heavily in the infrastructure to support wide usage of digital content in classrooms and now have full wireless coverage of the school together with a high-speed fibre connection to the outside world.

This year the staff have been working hard preparing for the changes in teaching and learning which will accompany the increased use of digital technology in classes. However the golden rule is that we use the appropriate tool for the task, whatever that might be – pen and paper or digital device. Sometimes a pen and paper is the best technology for a specific task. If we are going to continue to educate our students to be contributing members of society in an increasingly online world then we have to assist them to become competent digital citizens with the ability to collaborate, create and communicate through digital media.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

In the past we have provided our learners with access to computer rooms where every learner does the same thing at the same time. However there are not enough computer rooms available for every subject to offer access to digital technology and so students miss out. This increased demand for access to technology throughout the school day means that the College is asking all Year 9 students in 2016 to bring their own device.

BYOD creates new opportunities for learning and recent studies have shown that there is increased engagement of learners when using digital devices as well as improved learning outcomes. BYOD also provides the opportunity for a more personalized education for each student.

Advantages of BYOD include:

- Access to classroom resources and support anywhere at anytime through the internet.
- The ability to create a personal portfolio of work which can be viewed by caregivers.
- Greater access to information, rich media and international and local experts.
- Opportunities to collaborate with peers locally and in wider contexts.
- Greater opportunities for independent learning and personalized learning.
- Compliments and builds upon our current classroom-based learning programmes

A ONE TO ONE DEVICE

It is expected that students in Year 9 in 2016 will bring a device which meets some minimum specifications and we have partnered with Noel Leeming Group and put together a suggested range of 3 suitable entry-level devices – a chromebook, a notebook and a detachable tablet.

Please see over the page for more detailed information.

THE DEVICE

A one to one digital device allows students to create and edit documents efficiently. Students do not need a really powerful machine, nor do they need a large hard drive as they can save and share their work in the cloud. The minimum specifications for our BYOD devices are:

- A large enough screen to create and edit documents (10" minimum)
- At least 6 hours battery life from one battery charge
- Able to run a web browser that will allow it to access Office 365 and Google Apps for Education
- Software that allows for word-processing, presentations, spreadsheets, image and video/audio editing
- Has antivirus on it
- Is lightweight but strong enough to handle daily use.
- Is in a protective carry case.

Smartphones or iPods may be appropriate at times (e.g. for taking video/photos) but they are of limited use in a Secondary School classroom. Therefore, they are not acceptable devices for our BYOD programme.

Recommended entry-level devices:

1. HP CHROMEBOOK

2. HP STREAM NOTEBOOK

3. HP DETACHABLE TABLET

NOEL LEEMING GROUP
SUPPORTING E-LEARNING AT
EDGEWATER COLLEGE

These devices are all available from our BYOD retail partner Noel Leeming – at the Sylvia Park and Botany stores.