

Information for parents regarding BYO laptops

In 2015, the school provided laptops for students entering the school as Year 7 enrolments. All other year levels were required to provide “BYO” devices.

From 2016, the school is requiring all students of all year levels to have a laptop. The Federal Government’s “NSSCF” funding program has expired.

In line with Department of Education guidance, the school will not specify a particular brand or model of laptop to be used by students. Parents have complete freedom of choice as to the computer their child will use at school. However, the school would like to make some **general recommendations**.

For year 7, 8 and 9 students any laptop that is small in size and relatively cheap will do, since most of the class work will be completed using Internet resources. A laptop running Windows 7 or newer is preferred. As students move up in years to VCE levels, *electives* which are based on future career choices become important – for example, many senior students choose to own an Apple Mac as they are intending to pursue a career in media or the arts.

Do not be coerced by your child in to buying a laptop that is either expensive or physically large (the “cool” factor). Smaller HP, Lenovo and Acer laptops are perfectly fine. Avoid the temptation to provide an Apple iPad – they are much less useful in a secondary school setting due to their lack of a keyboard and ability to save documents to the device, or to print.

Many retailers such as Harvey Norman and JB Hi-Fi have massive sales on computers *after* Christmas. Then is the time to strike. Begin now to gather catalogues to give you an idea of prices.

You do NOT need to sign up for Office 365 or buy the Microsoft Office product. This software and many, many other software titles will be provided through the Department’s “EduStar” software catalogue. More information on this will be made available after November the 25th. The Microsoft Office suite is free for all students regardless of laptop or tablet it is run on.

A laptop that has **4 gigabytes of RAM** and a 750 gigabyte hard disk is not as useful as a laptop with **8 gigabytes of RAM** and a 320 gigabyte hard disk. **RAM is everything** when assessing performance, followed by CPU ‘muscle’, battery life and finally internal disk capacity and type. Make sure though that internal disk capacity is 128 gigabytes or more.

Remember, small and light. Get a carry bag as well.

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