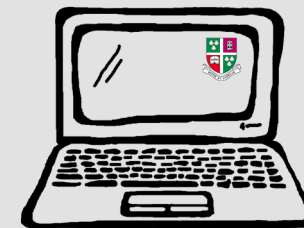# Bring-Your-Own-Device

**From September 2021, there will be an expectation that all students in Years 9 to 13 will bring a computing device into school to support their work in lessons. This follows the Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) model.**

## Why are we doing this now?

For many years we have been watching the trends and monitoring the research in the use of IT to support Teaching, Learning and Assessment in the classroom. We have invested in systems to support students' learning through IT at home and continued to invest in the network infrastructure in school to allow for future opportunities. It is fair to say that the pandemic has completely changed the pace of this development. Our students have rapidly improved their soft-skills in the use of IT. Additionally, our teachers have developed a great deal of confidence in making effective use of IT – a clear body of evidence about what is effective and what is not – in enhancing teaching, for delivering learning and personalising assessment in their subject areas.

The opportunity to continue developing pupils' digital skills, in preparation for entering an increasingly digital world, is one that is too important for us to miss. While retaining a clear view that there is a place for a blend of methodologies in the classroom, we will better meet the needs of the full range of students with ready access to digital technology in the classroom.

## How will the devices be used in school?

Students will be using their devices in lessons only under direct supervision of teachers. They will be using their devices to access materials, complete research, work collaboratively, complete online exercises for immediate feedback, and to draft and improve their submitted work. In some lessons the device will be fundamental to the whole lesson, sometimes it will be used for a single activity, and in other lessons will not be used at all. The proportion of lessons using the device will vary with the nature of the subject and the syllabus being followed.

## Why is the school not supplying all students with a machine, like other schools have done?

We are aware that a high proportion of our students already have dedicated use of a laptop for their work. A large proportion of the Sixth Formers and a significant number of GCSE students already bring a device into school most days - they are already, informally, applying the BYOD approach. Supplying an additional device would not be sensible in very many cases.

## What specification of device is required?

The device should be a laptop-style computer with an independent keyboard. It needs to be internet- enabled and protected by standard security and malware software. It should not need to be a high-end powerful machine – it is not being used for gaming in school and most students will not be completing media-rich work.

Most activities take place through the browser or through Office apps and a machine with 4-8GB memory would suffice. Operating system is irrelevant – Windows, Chrome or MacOS - provided it is up-to-date. Mindful of the students moving around all day, a balance needs to be struck between screen size and weight. The machines do need enough battery life to manage a day in school and for that reason the very cheapest options on the market might not be suitable.

## What about charging?

Charging facilities in school, outside the Sixth Form Centre, will be limited. Students need to ensure they arrive in school with their devices fully-charged. They will not be using their device in every lesson and should find – in most cases – they have enough charge for the day's activity. Should the device run out of charge, there may be the possibility of charging the device within a lesson but students cannot rely on this and therefore there is a risk that students might not be able to access some parts of the lesson on their own device.

## What about security?

From September, every student in Years 7 to 11 (and also those Sixth Formers that want one) will again have access to a secure locker in a camera-monitored space. Students are expected to lock their lockers when unattended and we will expect students to keep their devices in their locker outside of lesson times. Students will be advised not to take their devices to Games, but changing rooms will be locked when not in use, as happens now. If students do not follow the advice, we will be unable to take financial responsibility for accidental damage or theft, although we would certainly seek to support any investigation into any misconduct by third parties.

## What about insurance?

Depending on the value of the machine, we advise you to consider suitable insurance for the students' devices. This is often available within the household domestic policy as long as declared.

## The device is not working; can you help?

Our IT Support team will address any issues with the students' devices accessing our systems, such as authenticating to the Wi-Fi and accessing Firefly/Office etc. We will be unlikely to be able to support any other technical issues. We will have a small number of aging devices on hand to support students with unexpected needs.

## I have another question; who should I send it to?

Please send any comments or queries to BYOD@woodhousegrove.co.uk and then the question can be directed to the most appropriate member of staff.