

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) @ PAKURANGA COLLEGE 2017

The college has worked extensively towards fully integrating e-learning into all classes over the last seven years. We have invested heavily in the infrastructure and now have a state-of-the-art network with full wireless coverage over the campus and high-speed fibre connecting us to 'the outside world'.



We have also been working hard on changes to teaching and learning, to enable staff to use this technology effectively; but the overriding consideration is that we use the appropriate tools for the task. In many cases pen and paper continue to be the best technology. However, if we are going to continue to be a "forward-thinking, future-focused school" (ERO 2013), we need our students to become competent digital citizens with the ability to actively collaborate, co-operate, create and communicate in an online world.

If we want to help our students explore their full potential, we need to find a way of getting a digital device in the hands of every learner. **In 2017 we will require all year 9 students to include a digital device in their 'stationery' list.** There is additional information on the school website (<http://www.pakuranga.school.nz/pakuranga-college/elearning/>) and we will also be arranging meetings with parents to talk through the benefits and the challenges of this initiative.

Why is BYOD a vital part of your son or daughter's education?

Education must move with the times. BYOD has transformed the classroom by creating new opportunities for learning. Some recent studies have suggested that learning has been shown to improve with access to a 1 to 1 digital device. Time spent on the process of research, writing things down and pulling all the information together is saved, and more time can now be spent with the teacher, guiding the student through the process of making sense of that information and analysing it. BYOD provides the opportunity for a more personalised education for your child.

The advantages of a BYOD programme for your child's education;

- Anytime, anywhere access to class resources & support through PakNet (our on-line school)
- The ability to create a personal portfolio of their own work
- Increased exposure and experience in using 21st century thinking and learning tools
- Research suggests an improvement in student motivation, engagement and attendance
- Increased opportunities for independent learning and personalised learning
- Greater emphasis on critical thinking and development of multi-literacies
- Greater access to information, resources, rich media and experts
- Greater opportunities for collaboration with peers in wide contexts, including international ones
- Compliments and enhances our current classroom based learning programmes

What is a one to one digital device?

It is a personal laptop, Netbook, Chromebook, Android Tablet, or an iPad. As a school we don't believe that mandating a particular device is necessary, and because individual student needs differ, this can be a complex question to answer. We have however, put together some minimum specifications and suggested a range of suitable entry-level devices. Please see over the page for more information . . .

The Device

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

- Wireless networking capability using 802.11g, n or ac
- 5 hours of use from one battery charge
- Large screen (9" minimum) enough to work with documents in order to create and edit content
- Able to run a web browser that will allow it to access Google Apps and other learning resources
- Software that enables word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, image manipulation, video and audio editing (these can be cloud based)
- Is lightweight, but robust enough to handle daily use
- Is in a protective carrying case

There are times when a handheld device (Smartphone, iPod Touch) is an appropriate tool; however, they are of limited use in a secondary school. Therefore, they are not acceptable devices for our BYOD programme.

Recommended entry-level devices

Apple iPad



Samsung Galaxy Tablet



HP Stream Netbook



Samsung Chromebook



Suppliers

The school does not have a preferred supplier. The iPad, Netbook and Tablet can be found at most electrical stores (e.g. Harvey Norman, Noel Leeming, Bond & Bond, PB Technology).

Chromebooks can be easily ordered on-line;

www.pbtech.co.nz

www.harveynorman.co.nz

You can order any of the other devices shown here on these websites too.

Where can I find further information?

Our school website www.pakuranga.school.nz (keyword = elearning) contains more information and resources regarding our BYOD programme. Parents can access a guide to the different types of devices and also a very useful "Frequently Asked Questions" section. Please contact Billy Merchant (mht@pakuranga.school.nz) with any questions you may have regarding our BYOD programme that are not covered on our website.