

Frequently Asked Questions

What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device: Families select a digital device that meets our minimum specs – so it will do what we need it to do at school – but also meets the needs of the student. The device is a privately owned wireless and/or portable tablet, iPad, netbook, notebook or laptop computer.

How much will a device cost? Can it be bought from the school?

The school will not be selling devices. You can purchase your device from any retail outlet or supplier.

If we do not provide a device, will my child be unable to enroll at the college?

No students will be turned away because they can't afford a device. Ideally, we want students to take ownership of their learning and to take responsibility for their own device. The Pakuranga College Board is committed to making compulsory BYOD happen for families with financial constraints. However, we will not be providing free devices for students to own and take home. Specifically:

- The Board is committed to doing all we can to facilitate the ownership by families.
- Loan devices may be available for some students in some situations.

Who is responsible for security and damage?

Responsibility to keep the device secure rests with the individual owner. Pakuranga College, its staff or employees, are not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the normal channels similar to other personal effects.

With all these devices around, is there going to be a problem with theft?

We have taught Year 9 digital classes for the last 5 years at the college and have only had one theft issue during this time. Many students currently have smartphones much more expensive than the devices we are recommending, and we have very few problems with these too.

I'm concerned that my son or daughter will break their device, drop it or lose it?

We would hope most people would look after their expensive electronic equipment like they do with their phones. They look after it and they keep it safe. Part of learning in life. Part of when we grow up, we will be given expensive equipment, and it is up to us to look after it. We would also recommend purchasing a protective case/cover for the device.

So, you're allowed to have devices at school now? What's the difference?

Currently, we have a mix of students in digital classes (all with devices), some students who opt to bring their own device now and then, and some who do not bring a device at all. Therefore teachers are teaching in much the same way as they have always taught – not fully committing to a digital style of teaching. Digitalisation of current teaching is happening in the classroom to a degree, eg the data projector, PakNet. When asked, teachers say that it's an ineffective use of their time to plan for all the different combinations of digital and non-digital students.

Likewise, when we asked the students why don't you bring a device to school, the answer was "Why would we, teachers don't do anything different. They still give us paper handouts, and still expect us to hand in work on paper". Fair call – it's a chicken and egg scenario. We have to break that cycle. Both parties would gladly move to a more IT rich environment of learning but we have to get the digital one to one situation started.

Where will the devices be stored when they are not required, for example in PE?

The HPE faculty has storage shelving in the gym, which is covered by HD video surveillance cameras. When working in other areas, students always take their bags and personal belongings with them. Students will not leave their devices unattended in the changing rooms.

Where will the devices be stored during breaks, for example interval and lunch?

This is the responsibility of the student. Students will carry their device at all times with them throughout the day.

How will students keep up with note taking in class using a keyboard if they are not as advanced?

Devices will be rarely used for long periods of typing. Most of the information needed for the lesson will be downloaded from Moodle already keyed in. The learning takes place in the use of that material. Classroom device use is often collaborative and so there is a good mix of talk and data manipulation or design.

How will you stop students playing games and watching movies in class?

The school's proxy server can block a large portion of online games and games that use Internet access to function. The school can identify games on the network and view whatever students have been on. Online games and downloading music and films slows the system down for everyone (as well as often being illegal).

Will my child have to sign an agreement?

Yes, all students will have to sign a Cybersafety Use Agreement. No student will be permitted to use personal technology devices unless the agreement is signed and returned. A copy can be requested from the school reception if required.

Is there going to be training for parents – internet safety, digital citizenship, Parent Portal access to check results and attendance?

Yes. We are already developing more information on BYOD on our website for parents. We will find out if parents are interested in further information evenings in term 1.

The advantages of a student owned internet-capable-device include;

- Anytime, anywhere access to class resources & support through PakNet and Cloud
- The ability to create 'digital folders' through programmes such as Google docs
- The ability to create a personal portfolio of their own work
- Anytime, anywhere access to library books through access to the Auckland Public library, and other online Libraries such as the National Library
- Greater ability to communicate with teachers and other students through access to student email
- Anytime anywhere access to information available through the Internet
- The ability to draft, redraft and publish work
- Increased competence in using 21st century thinking and learning tools
- Increased engagement in the learning process as students become more active participants in their learning
- Improved motivation, engagement and attendance
- Greater independence, collaboration with peers and personalised learning
- Improved critical thinking and development of multi-literacies
- Access to rich media for communicating ideas
- Greater access to information, resources and experts & access to anywhere, anytime learning
- Greater opportunities for collaboration in wide contexts, including international ones
- Greater integration of technology and the use of digital learning tools that complement existing teaching programmes
- Improved innovation as the use of devices in the classroom evolves