

## The Device

A 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 will be saving and sharing their work in the cloud.

One of the many realities of computing in a school environment is that students require a highly portable device with a long battery life. Students must carry their device from class to class every hour and will not be able to rely on having an opportunity to recharge their battery during the day. In addition to this, the device must also be wireless capable and be robust which often means the build quality of the device should be high.

When considering a device, please also bear in mind that the student will be responsible for ensuring that it is kept in good working order. The schools IT team - NewEra will provide limited assistance with configuring the devices onto the wireless network, but will not provide in-depth ongoing technical support.

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 the following minimum specifications for a suitable BYOD device at Pakuranga College:

- Wireless networking capability using 802.11g, n or ac
- 5 hours of use from one battery charge
- Large screen (7.9" minimum) enough to work with documents in order to create and edit content
- The ability to run a web browser (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer) that will allow it to access Google Apps and other learning resources
- Has 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

While there are times that a handheld device (Smartphone, iPod Touch) is the most appropriate tool for a specific purpose, there are limitations that should be considered as well. Limitations to these devices are specific to model, but one obvious problem is screen size. Whilst handheld devices may be great for capturing photos or video, the small screen means that it is harder to manipulate text or images on them than it is on a laptop or netbook computer. The lack of a physical keyboard or larger on-screen keyboard often means that it's much less efficient to undertake any form of word processing on a handheld device. Therefore, they are not recommended devices for our BYOD programme.

### **Other considerations:**

- Warranty – students using the device regularly will want faults fixed quickly, the school will not provide technical support or repair services.
- Insurance – make sure you are covered for replacement if lost or stolen; the school insurance does not cover personal property.

Although we do not mandate the purchase of a specific model or device, however, we encourage you to buy a product that includes the features above to ensure your child has the greatest possible access to the educational resources that will support and enhance their learning. The device you do choose to buy needs to satisfy the minimum specifications. Anything less than this will be a false economy.

## RECOMMENDED ENTRY LEVEL DEVICES

- Apple iPad
- Apple iPad Mini
- Samsung Chromebook
- Windows HP Netbook
- Samsung Galaxy Tablet

### **NOTE: Android Tablets**

Android devices are great but there is a huge variation in quality of hardware and build quality. If you would rather purchase an Android tablet it would be best to choose one that is made by an established manufacturer such as Samsung, Asus or Acer. Android 4.0 or higher (Ice cream sandwich or Jellybean); front and rear facing cameras and a screen size of 7.9" or larger is required.