



BYOD @ PAKURANGA COLLEGE – A QUICK GUIDE TO DIGITAL DEVICES

TYPE OF DIGITAL DEVICE	THE STRENGTHS ...	THE WEAKNESSES ...	SUMMARY	COST
<p>iPad, Android or Windows Tablets</p> <p>A tablet is a device that is similar in design to a smartphone, except it has a much larger screen (usually around 8 to 10”).</p> <p>Tablets don’t fold like a laptop and don’t have built-in keyboards, but do have touch screens. A typical device in this category is the Apple iPad.</p> <p>Note: There are some Android tablets that lack many features of a regular tablet. To be safe stick with Samsung, Acer or Asus.</p>	<p>Lightweight, small and portable.</p> <p>“Instant On” a tablet is instantly ready, without requiring a boot-up or logon process.</p> <p>Cheap apps - an application is often free or less than \$5 to purchase and easy to install.</p> <p>There’s normally an app for almost everything that you need to do!</p> <p>Superb battery life that will easily get students through the day.</p> <p>Can be cheaper than a laptop.</p> <p>MS Windows 8 devices tend to come with a keyboard.</p> <p>HD cameras and microphones make them superb devices for being creative.</p>	<p>You cannot plug a USB flash drive into many tablets to copy a file on or off the device.</p> <p>File transfer needs to be done via e-mail or a Cloud based solution.</p> <p>The size of the screen can be limiting.</p> <p>Tend to lack a built-in keyboard, however third party accessories (Bluetooth keyboard) can be purchased to help with this issue.</p> <p>A tablet is not equipped to run all of the applications that a laptop can run (e.g. Photoshop).</p> <p>iPads cannot run Flash, which some websites rely on (e.g. Mathletics). Some other tablets can (e.g. Android).</p>	<p>Tablets are great for instant access to web browsing and e-mail. Apps can provide a wealth of different and unique functions. However, a tablet should not be considered the equivalent of a laptop.</p> <p><i>We see the bulk of our Yr9 and Yr10 students using these devices.</i></p>	<p>\$300 - \$1500</p>
<p>Ultrabooks and Chromebooks</p> <p>This is a new category of laptop computer, which replaces the old Netbooks. Usually with screen sizes around 11”-13”. This is an attempt to combine high-powered components with ultra portability.</p> <p>The MacBook Air is a popular example in this category, as is the Asus Zenbook and Samsung Chromebook.</p>	<p>Screen size is small enough to be portable, but large enough for extended use.</p> <p>Thin form factor (<10mm - 20mm).</p> <p>Very light (1-1.5kg).</p> <p>Often these models include a Solid State Drive (SSD) which, although small in capacity, is very fast.</p> <p>Instant on and resume.</p> <p>Superb battery life.</p> <p>Almost all of the software is free and cloud based (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets)</p> <p>100GB of free cloud storage with a Chromebook.</p>	<p>No built-in DVD/CD drive. External USB drives can usually be purchased separately if required.</p> <p>Hard drives are usually small in size (you are dependent on cloud storage).</p> <p>Unable to install specialized programmes such as Photoshop and Final Cut Pro.</p> <p>Chromebooks need Wi-Fi to function – there is very limited off-line functionality and therefore Wi-Fi at home is essential.</p>	<p>An excellent compromise between portability and versatility. You get a full sized laptop with the speed and battery life of a tablet.</p> <p><i>We expect to see more Chromebooks in the classroom. They have been successfully adopted by schools in the US and Europe and have been recently released here in NZ.</i></p>	<p>\$400 - \$2000</p>
<p>Laptops and Notebooks</p> <p>The type of portable computer you’re probably most familiar with. Laptops usually have screen sizes from 13” - 17” with a few larger or smaller models available.</p> <p>Laptops have good versatility for students.</p>	<p>Full-functioning and versatile device, capable of performing a wide range of tasks from web browsing and e-mail through to word processing and viewing video.</p> <p>High quality laptops are capable of photo and video editing.</p> <p>The larger screen and fixed keyboard size means that they are suitable for extended periods of input.</p> <p>Able to run specialized software programmes such as Photoshop and Final Cut Pro.</p>	<p>Usually heavier and larger than the above devices.</p> <p>Additional software (e.g. Microsoft Office, anti-virus, Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro etc.) costs significantly more than apps for tablets.</p> <p>It takes a lot of power to run bigger screens and therefore, battery life isn’t as good.</p> <p>There is no rear-facing camera on a laptop (just a front-facing webcam) – this requires you to use a separate device if you want to capture video.</p>	<p>A notebook/laptop is suitable for the widest range of tasks that students will encounter. However, there is also a wide range of price and quality available not all devices are created equal! Devices ranging from \$1000-\$2500 usually run reasonably quickly, and laptops approaching \$2500 can be used for photo editing and video editing.</p> <p><i>We see a lot of our Yr11 and Yr13 students using these devices in the classroom.</i></p>	<p>\$500 - \$2500+</p>