



## ICT Update for 2017

We are now in the fourth year of our BYOD development programme at the College. Most classes are using Google Classroom as a format for sharing information and some staff are using Hapara Teacher Dashboard to help students manage files in Google Docs. The school wifi is functioning well throughout the College and the infrastructure is now fully in place to support our on-line environment. NCEA students are increasingly submitting work in a digital format which allows for authenticity checking and feedback by staff. We have recently trialled an NZQA assessment using school chromebooks.

Our ICT strategy has been to gradually introduce BYOD over the last three years. **We are now at a stage where we request all our students in Years 7-9 to have a device to support their learning.** This will allow us to go to the next phase of student-teacher interaction, providing support to all our learners. It is in line with our intentions signalled in 2014 and in subsequent newsletters when we positioned our long term ICT Strategy. In that document we stated that all students in the Junior School would need a device by 2017.

Some points to note:

- At this stage, after discussion and consideration, cell phones are not considered to be a suitable educational device. The screen is too small, there is no keyboard and they cannot reach the net through the school servers. As such they can only operate on personal data plans which are both costly to the individual and bypass all the schools security filtering which keeps our students safe. This policy is being constantly reviewed to ensure our students utilise the most appropriate technology for their learning.
- At the start of our BYOD journey we advocated that iPads were the best device to allow on-line learning. This was because the educational Apps available through Apple at the time were far more advanced. As time has progressed, Google Docs have been launched and Google Classroom has allowed for many more educational aspects to be developed without an iPad. For this reason we have moved away from stating a specific device, although a keyboard is recommended for students in the Senior school. Blue tooth keyboards are available for borrowing from our library so that students with tablets can have keyboard facilities. Any device that is internet capable offers the opportunity to utilise Google Docs.
- We are aware that there is a significant outlay to purchase a device and this can cause difficulty for some. We have a limited number of chromebooks available for short term borrowing from our library so that students without devices are not penalised. It should be noted that borrowed chromebooks are not the ideal solution for students as the

students need to gain familiarity with their own devices and cannot store any work on school devices.

- As we have stated from the inception of our BYOD programme, the use of ICT does not and will not replace all conventional forms of classroom practise. It is a tool that allows students to manage their work more effectively, augments and strengthens communication and enhances the learning process.
- We are consistently moving towards increasing communications through on-line media including student portals to track their learning, on-line daily notices and College apps.
- Senior students are increasingly having to access on-line material to support their progress through NCEA. It is still proposed that NZQA will be trialling on-line assessment in 2017 and subsequently rolled out. NZQA have indicated that they want all assessments to be on-line by 2020.

Programmes will be developed for 2017 with the expectation that all students in Years 7-9 will have access to a device. If you have concerns regarding this position, please contact me using the details at the bottom of this article.

To support you with the purchase of a device we have negotiated rates with both Harvey Norman and Noel Leeming. Their brochures will be sent out soon giving you access codes for the special pricing.

We request that all students have a device to use by the start of Term 2. If this is a concern, please contact the school to discuss options.

The requirements for a device are:

- The screen is minimum tablet size (iPad mini)
- The device must be internet compatible (Chrome)
- A keyboard is a preference – and a requirement for senior students
- Devices should have bluetooth compatibility – this will allow tablets to have a keyboard which can be borrowed through the school.
- Devices should be charged at home

We continue to develop learning programmes to support appropriate use of technology and maintain a strong cybersafety approach. Facebook and other social media are not accessible through the school filters. The college does not support the use of social media other than for groups such as school teams where two staff are always present in any messaging group.

We would ask all parents to take an active roll in supporting the responsible use of social media by monitoring their child's account. It's not snooping, it's keeping them safe.

Ka kite a noa,

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