YEAR 7 BYOD PROGRAM 2020
Introduction & frequently asked questions
Dear parents

As your child prepares to join us at Centenary State High school, one of the many considerations is the digital device they will need. We have prepared this document to answer some commonly asked questions.

DOES MY STUDENT NEED A DIGITAL DEVICE?
All students at Centenary SHS will be required to have a digital device in 2020. Our technology program improves student learning outcomes through increased access to curriculum materials, teacher feedback, seamless collaboration, time-saving tools and a range of creative and challenging learning experiences. Progressively more learning is taking place online or is supported through online activities. Through guidance, students are prepared for tertiary study and workplaces that are increasingly digital. The school has had great success with BYOD in Years 7, 8 and 11 in 2019, and in 2020 the program will expand school-wide.

Teachers are using a range of technologies across the school, finding the right balance between screen time and traditional ways of learning. The aim of our BYOD program is to facilitate rather than replace good teaching and learning practices while opening up new possibilities for students.

WHAT KIND OF DEVICE DOES MY STUDENT NEED?
We strongly recommend a Windows laptop. Windows devices offer the greatest level of compatibility with our network, the expertise of our teachers, our technical expertise and the range of uses students will encounter across their studies.

Apple laptops are also often used successfully by students but access to IT support for these devices is limited. We can also connect iPads but consider them to be best used as a companion device for simple tasks such as accessing class materials, reading, web browsing and simple word processing. Connecting an iPad to our school network is not as seamless as the other options. If you have an iPad but aren’t ready to upgrade, we will do our best to support you. Please consider a Windows device when it is time to upgrade.

All other platforms are not supported.

Please see the document ‘Support for non-Windows devices’ available on our website for more information.

PURCHASING CONSIDERATIONS
An investment in a quality laptop will last for 3-4 years if it is well cared for and maintained. Cheaper ‘consumer’ laptops are not designed for constant use in a school or workplace setting. Components and batteries in these devices may be suitable for home use, but are not suitable for moving around the school day-in day-out for many years When replacement and repairs are considered they may not be the most economical choice compared to a more rugged ‘enterprise’ model that should last 4 or more years.

Warranty and accidental damage arrangements should also be considered when purchasing. A 3 Year warranty is highly recommended. In addition, from our experience Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) usually pays for itself over the life of the laptop. Many vendors offer ADP for up to 3 years, giving parents extra peace of mind.

See the school website for the BYOD Buying guide for parents which has detailed information about recommended specifications.

BYOD PURCHASING PORTAL
We have an arrangement with a third-party, Learning With Technology, to provide parents a purchasing portal of recommended devices. LWT have extensive experience with school BYOD programs and offers quality devices at a range of price points. Each device has finance, ADP, warranty and protective cases available. All devices purchased through LWT can also be repaired by their respective manufacturers here at the school, saving parents the need to arrange repair at your home or workplace.

While we do encourage parents to consider LWT, please keep in mind that this is a private purchase and the school takes no responsibility for the device and/or finance arrangements.

Log into the LWT portal here: https://cshs.orderportal.com.au

LAPTOP RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS
- Screen size: minimum 11", maximum 15" (smaller size recommended to avoid breakage, increase battery life and minimise weight)
- Operating system: Windows 10 64-bit
- Maximum weight: 2kg
- Battery: 6-8 hour battery life
- Processor: Pentium N5000 / Core M3
- Memory: 4GB or higher
- Storage: 128GB SSD
- Integrated Intel UHD Graphics
- Ports: 2 USB ports (additional recommended especially if a mouse is being used)
- Network connectivity: Device must have 5GHz 802.11n support
WHAT IF MY STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN SPECIALIST MEDIA OR DESIGN SUBJECTS?

- The specifications above would suit a majority of school uses, but may not provide enough power, storage or screen size for more intensive applications such as video editing and 3D design. Although we have such computers available at school, students studying film, media or design in the senior years may benefit from a personal device with higher specifications that they can use to complete work at home, for example:
  - Intel Core i5 8th Generation quad-core processor or higher
  - Dedicated Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)
  - 16GB or more RAM

See our BYOD Buying Guide for Parents for more details.

OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS

- Headphones with microphone to suit laptop
- Hard protective water resistant laptop case to suit laptop model. NOTE: Rubber sleeves do not provide adequate protection for laptops. Warranty and/or accidental damage insurance could be voided if a suitable case is not used.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: MICROSOFT OFFICE

To download a free version Microsoft Office (available to all Education Queensland students), see this page: https://learningplace.education.qld.gov.au/microsoft-office-software

OTHER OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- 3 year warranty with next day onsite support.
- 3 year Accidental Damage insurance (highly recommended as accidents do happen)
- Backup up storage device e.g. USB or external drive
- Mouse (USB or wireless)
- Touchscreen and digital pen

HOW DOES MY CHILD CONNECT TO THE SCHOOL NETWORK?

Student laptops connect to the school network through a Department of Education approved technical solution to ensure secure, seamless access to local network, filtered internet, and printing. NOTE: Students need administrator rights to be able to install the required software to connect their device.

WHAT TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

The school IT support extends to connecting your device to the school network and providing school-owned and recommended software. While we do our best to give further support and offer advice, ultimate responsibility for hardware and operating system issues lie with parents and any support arrangements with the device vendor or manufacturer.

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WHAT IF I CAN’T PROVIDE A LAPTOP DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?

For families experiencing financial hardship, a number of school owned laptops are available for short term loan. Information and application forms are distributed at the start of Term 1 each year, and are available on request. Contact james.whittle@eq.edu.au for more information.

WHAT IF MY CHILD DEVICE IS BROKEN AND IN NEED OF REPAIR?

A number of laptops are available for daily borrowing each day through the Resource Centre. Parents should provide a note stating the issue and how long this replacement will be required.

ARE THERE ANY BYOX PROGRAM COSTS?

All BYOx costs (including Equity Program and daily borrowings) are included in the Technology Levy that is part of the SRS Scheme. The levy also contributes towards infrastructure, technical support and licencing costs.

Note: A more complete explanation of our technology program is available on our website.

For further information contact the Head of Department, eLearning, James Whittle on (07) 3373 4542 or email james.whittle@eq.edu.au.