

Centenary SHS Bring Your Own Device Program

Frequently Asked Questions

DOES MY STUDENT NEED A DIGITAL DEVICE?

All students at Centenary SHS are required to use a digital device. 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.

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 ask parents and carers to supply each child with a device that will be integrated with our network while at school. For this reason, 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 used successfully by students but access to IT support for these devices is limited. iPads are considered best used as a companion device for simple tasks such as accessing class materials, reading and web browsing. 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 but please consider a Windows device when it is time to upgrade.

Android devices can be very difficult to connect to the school's network, if possible at all. Therefore, they are not recommended or supported beyond a best effort attempt at connection.

All other platforms are not supported, including Chromebooks.

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 several years. When replacement and repairs are taken into consideration, 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. 3 Year warranties are highly recommended. Additionally, Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) usually pays for itself over the life of the laptop in our experience. Many vendors offer ADP for up to 3 years, giving parents and carers extra peace of mind.

See the school website for the [BYOD Buying guide for parents and carers](#) which has detailed information about recommended specifications.

BYOD PURCHASING PORTAL

We have an arrangement with a third-party, Learning With Technology (LWT), to provide parents and carers a purchasing portal of recommended devices. LWT have extensive experience with school BYOD programs and offer 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 and carers the need to arrange for repairs to be carried out at your home or workplace.

While we do encourage parents and carers to consider LWT, please keep in mind that the school takes no responsibility for private laptop purchases and/or finance arrangements.

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

LAPTOP RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

Please see the school website for the [BYOD Buying guide for parents and carers](#) which has detailed information about recommended specifications.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS INTERESTED IN SPECIALIST MEDIA OR DESIGN APPLICATIONS?

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 looking to study 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)
- Memory: 16GB or more
- Storage: 256GB SSD or higher
- Access to a larger monitor at home

Some programs used in specialist senior subjects, such as Design, require Microsoft Windows. Therefore, Apple Mac and iPad iOS are not suitable for these subjects.

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

FREE SOFTWARE FOR STUDENTS: MICROSOFT OFFICE

When purchasing, please remember that a subscription to Microsoft Office is not required. To download a free version of Microsoft Office (available to all Education Queensland students), refer to the following site: <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)

HOW DOES MY CHILD CONNECT TO THE SCHOOL NETWORK?

Student laptops connect to the school network through a Department of Education approved technical solution, *InTune*, to ensure secure, seamless access to local network, filtered internet, and printing. Once student accounts are migrated to the school, the connection process should be completed at home using *InTune*. See our [website](#) for detailed step-by-step guides for this process. NOTE: Students need their school email address and password as well as 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 lies with parents and carers and any support arrangements with the device vendor or manufacturer.

| | Connection | Hardware | Software |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Parents/ Carers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| School | ✓ School network connection | ✗ | ✓ Some school-based software |
| Laptop Vendor | ✗ | ✓ See specifics of warranty on purchase | ✗ |

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 loan. Information and application forms are available on request. Contact ict.support@eq.edu.au for more information.

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

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

ARE THERE ANY BYOD PROGRAM COSTS?

There are no additional costs to access the BYOD Program.