



CENTENARY STATE HIGH SCHOOL



BYOD Buying Guide



This guide is designed to help you purchase a suitable school laptop for your child. We understand that parents/carers have a variety of IT knowledge, budget, and expectations. The recommended specifications, vendor portal details and jargon buster in this document are designed to make your decision easier. This guide should be read in conjunction with the Bring Your Own Device page of our website which explains the BYOD Program offered by Centenary SHS in more detail.

Important note: We strongly recommend devices running Windows as they have the best integration with our network, match the expertise and expectations of teachers and offer the greatest range of classroom applications. As such, all our recommended specifications and vendor portal refer to Windows devices only. For more information, please refer to our website. Please also be aware that support for Windows 10 has ended as of October 2025.

Centenary SHS is not responsible for any damage to personal devices brought to school. Students/parents assume all responsibility for damage to personal electronic devices. It is highly recommended that a suitable insurance cover is provided, such as accidental damage insurance.

Recommended Device Specifications

Specifications	Recommended	High performance
	Suitable for all general school use. May run video editing and computer design programs, but performance may not be of a high standard. Recommended for all Junior Secondary students.	Provides a faster processor, more memory and storage and a larger, sharper screen. Senior Secondary students studying Visual Arts & Media or Design Technologies may benefit from this type of device.
Device type	Windows Laptop or Windows “2-in-1” Device (tablet with keyboard attachment)	
CPU	Core 3 / Ryzen 3 or greater	Core Ultra 5 / Ryzen 5 series or greater
RAM	16GB recommended 8GB minimum	16-32GB
Graphics	Integrated graphics	Dedicated Graphics
Storage	256GB SSD	512GB SSD or greater
Screen	12” to 15”	14" to 15"
Battery Life	Advertised battery life of at least six hours	
Wireless Network	Device must have 5GHz or dualband support – sometimes referred to as 802.11ac, 802.11ax or Wifi6	
Operating System	Windows NOTE: Chromebooks will not work	Windows NOTE: AutoDesk software used in Engineering and Design subjects does not operate on Apple.
Case	Hard sided protective water-resistant laptop case to suit laptop model.	
Software	AntiVirus – many free options available including built-in to Windows Microsoft Office – available for free using the links from the Centenary SHS website.	
Optional	Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) – Insurance against accidental breakage Touchscreen and Digital Stylus.	

Have you considered?

Second hand or Ex-Government devices can be a cost-effective options, especially for students who may be prone to breakages.

Purchasing through the Centenary SHS portals

We have an arrangement with Learning with Technology (LWT), HP and Next Technologies, to offer recommended devices directly to our school community. These portals offer devices that meet the specifications above, including options for Accidental Damage Protection and Protective Cases, both of which are highly recommended.

While we do encourage parents/carers to consider these portals, we do not endorse any one supplier and are not responsible for any problems you may have with the device. We encourage parents/carers to do their own research before making any final decisions.

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

Log into the HP portal here: https://www.hp.com/au-en/shop/byod-store?jumpid=va_72rdmzen3g
(use code: CentenarySHS)

Log into the Next Technologies portal here: <https://centenaryshs.byod.shop/home>

Other considerations when purchasing

'Business/Enterprise' vs. 'Consumer' laptops

- Where possible we recommend laptops advertised as business/enterprise, as they are designed for durability, productivity, and all-day use. Consumer devices may be cheaper, and sometimes prettier, but are not designed for day-in/day-out school use.

Charging

- Consider laptops with USB-C charging. This will make purchasing additional chargers more convenient rather than requiring a brand specific model.

Gaming Laptops

- While gaming laptops are often more powerful, they are also usually too heavy to be practical for carrying around school, and do not have the battery life to be practical. Please leave such devices at home.

Weight

- Maximum recommended weight: 2kg. Heavier laptops can be uncomfortable to carry and more susceptible to damage.

Warranty

- 3 years is ideal.
- Coverage (check for exclusions, for example on the battery).
- Onsite (better, faster) or Return to Base (slower).

Accidental Damage Protection (ADP)

Where available, coverage for accidental breakages is highly recommended. The terms of ADP cover vary considerably:

- Number/frequency of allowed claims.
- Excess costs.

- Some home insurance policies cover accidental damage at school – contact your insurer for advice.

Protecting your device from damage

- A good quality protective case can prevent expensive damage. Look for one with a hard ‘shell’ component.
- Cheap, thin cases may look good but give very little protection from drops or other damage.
- All devices must have the student’s name clearly labelled.

Antivirus

- Must be installed and up-to-date in order to join our network.
- Many suitable free options, such as Windows Defender which comes preinstalled with Windows, are available so there is no need to purchase additional software.

Software for Education Qld students

- Microsoft Office – available for free using the links from the Centenary SHS website.
- Adobe Software – access to the Adobe suite is available through the school.

Jargon-buster

These are terms you may come across while purchasing a device:

CPU – Central Processing Unit. The brains of the computer. Naming scheme is quite confusing, with 2 Brands (AMD and Intel) and with Intel having two families, Intel Core (Basic tasks) and Intel Core Ultra (premium model with better graphics and AI features). Both brands use similar numbering schemes starting a 3 and going up in odd numbers.

Graphics - Laptops can have either integrated graphics or a dedicated graphics card. Dedicated cards are recommended for visually intensive applications such as video editing, computer-aided design and special effects, though is not necessary for basic usage of these programs.

Office – A package of software containing common productivity tools such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Freely available for students using the links on the Centenary SHS website.

RAM – Random Access Memory - The internal memory of the computer, measured in Gigabytes (GB). The more it has, the faster it will be. At least 8GB is required with 16GB recommended. This is currently what is causing massive price rises.

Wireless Network – This refers to the protocols the laptop can use to connect to Wi-Fi. Our network requires 5GHz 802.11n or higher support which is standard in most new laptops. In marketing documentation, this can be listed as many different things. Look for the words Dualband, 802.11n, 802.11ac, 802.11ax or even WI-FI 5 (or higher)