Dear Parents and Carers

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 Computer and Internet page of our website which explains the BYOD Program offered by Centenary SHS in more detail.

Important note: We strongly recommend devices running Windows 10 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 10 devices only. For information about non-Windows devices see the information here.

## Recommended Device Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Recommended</th>
<th>High performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Provides a faster processor, more memory and storage and a larger, sharper screen. Senior Secondary students studying Visual Arts &amp; Media or Design Technologies may benefit from this type of device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device type</td>
<td>Windows Laptop or Windows “2-in-1” Device (tablet with keyboard attachment)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>Pentium N5000 / Core M3</td>
<td>Core i5 / Ryzen 5 series or up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>4 GB</td>
<td>8GB or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics</td>
<td>Integrated graphics</td>
<td>Dedicated Graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>128GB SSD</td>
<td>~256GB SSD or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen</td>
<td>11” to 15” 1280x720 minimum resolution</td>
<td>14” to 15”  Full HD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery Life</td>
<td>Advertised battery life of at least six hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Network</td>
<td>Device must have 5GHz 802.11n support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Windows 10 (not Windows 10S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Purchasing through the LWT BYOD portal

We have an arrangement with Learning with Technology (LWT) to offer recommended devices directly to our school community. LWT has extensive experience with school BYOD programs and offer devices with:

- More rugged construction than a consumer-grade laptop
- Light weight and all-day battery life
- Included or optional extended 3 Year warranty with onsite repairs (strongly recommended)
- Optional for Accidental Damage protection (strongly recommended)
- Optional protective cases (strongly recommended)

The portal provides six options, ranging from entry-level to high performance, and includes recommendations for students studying Visual Arts & Media or Design Technologies subjects in Years 10-12 who may want a more powerful device.

The school will also provide facilities for LWT to provide applicable warranty and accidental damage repairs here at the school, saving parents/carers the inconvenience of technicians coming to your home or workplace.

While we do encourage parents/carers to consider the LWT portal, we do not endorse any one supplier and is 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.

Other Considerations when purchasing

‘Business/Enterprise’ vs. ‘Consumer’ laptops
- Where possible we recommend laptops advertised as business/enterprise, as they 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.

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 10, are available

Free software for Education Qld students
- Microsoft Office – available using the links from the Centenary SHS website
- Adobe Software – Basic suite, including Photoshop, available for free. Premiere Pro available for $25 annual licence fee. Please see Resource Centre staff for more details.

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

BYOD – Bring Your Own Device. Sometimes also referred to as BYOx or Bring Your Own ‘X’.

CPU – Central Processing Unit. The brains of the computer. Responsible for handling workload.

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.

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 4GB is required for Windows 10, though 8GB is recommended.

SSD – Solid State Drive – A much faster, more durable, though often smaller capacity, hard drive than the older Hard Disc Drives (HDD). Highly recommended.
Windows 10 S – A cut down version of Windows 10. Prevents all applications from running except those downloaded from the Microsoft Store. While advertised as being made for schools, it will not work with the Centenary SHS network.

Wireless Network – This refers to the protocols the laptop can use to connect to Wi-Fi. Our network requires 5GHz 802.11n support which is standard in most new laptops.