

BYOD buying guide for Parents/Carers

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 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 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

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	Pentium N5000 / Core i3 / Ryzen 3 2200	Core i5 / Ryzen 5 series or up
RAM	8GB highly recommended	8GB or greater
Graphics	Integrated graphics	Dedicated Graphics
Storage	256GB SSD	~256GB SSD or greater
Screen	11" to 15" 1280x720 minimum resolution	14" to 15" Full HD
Battery Life	Advertised battery life of at least six hours	
Wireless Network	Device must have 5GHz dualband support	
Operating System	Windows 10 (not Windows 10S) or Windows 11	
Case	Hard sided protective water-resistant laptop case to suit laptop model	
Software	AntiVirus – many free options available including built-in to Windows 10 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	

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 all suitable insurance cover is provided, such as accidental damage insurance.

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 several 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 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>

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

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

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 for \$10 (payable to school office annually)

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 or more is highly 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.