

Recommended Specification for the BYOD Programme

Kelston Girls' College network allows students to connect their own devices. Students are encouraged to bring their own device to use in the classroom for educational purposes.

Why BYOD?

A suitable device, which allows students to use a wide range of digital tools, is now a useful and widely used tool in secondary schools over a wide range of subject areas.

Ownership of a personal device by students has been shown to bring a new level of access, motivation and engagement.

It will help to develop greater independence and improved critical thinking, and will provide new opportunities for collaboration and sharing.

Teachers can now place assignments and resources directly into on-line folders which students can access and they are expected to be able to submit work and receive teacher feedback on-line.

NZQA has indicated that external examinations will become fully digital in 2018-2020 and participation in a BYOD programme will help prepare them for this.

Devices

A device is one that allows students to:

- **Create and edit documents efficiently**
- **Manipulate photos and images**
- **Collaborate online**
- **Use internet resources and tools.**

Students do not require a really powerful or expensive machine, nor do they need a large hard drive as they will be saving and sharing their work in the cloud.

SMARTPHONES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR THIS TYPE OF LEARNING.

Specifications: minimum specifications for a suitable BYOD device are:

- **Screen size: 10.1 inch or greater**
- **Keyboard**
- **Built in wireless: 802.11g or 802.11n**
- **Robust and sturdy enough for school use**
- Protective carry case
- 6 – 8 hour battery life (Charging facilities are not provided at school so devices need to be charged at home each night).
- **Light enough for a student to easily carry.**
- **Headphones** (necessary to listen to web content or tutorials)

- **Under warranty** (to allow for quick repairs if required – we are unable to repair student devices)
- **Insurance against loss or damage** (we advise students on keeping their devices safe but do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to personal devices)
- Antivirus: Recommended

Examples of such devices include:

- Laptops: Windows 7 or above, Intel i5 processor/AMD A8 processor or newer, 4GM RAM or MacBook OS10.7 (Lion), 2GB RAM.
- HP Stream
- Chromebook
- Android Tablet, Version 4.0 or above (a keyboard is a useful accessory)
- iPad

Battery life is a consideration when buying a laptop. Having a spare battery may be a cost effective way of extending the time between charges. **Please note:** *Smart phones do not have the functionality required and are not part of the BYOD programme.*

Considerations

- **Warranty** – Students using the device regularly will want faults fixed quickly, the school will not provide technical support or repair services.
- **Software** – Students will be able to achieve much of what they need to, using online tools, which are often free. Teachers will advise students of specialist software useful for particular subjects. For this reason, it is important that the device have an up-to-date operating system, and the Google Chrome browser, which can be installed on any operating system free of charge.
- **Support** – We provide help to connect to the school network. Beyond that, students need to take responsibility for their own devices for problem solving or troubleshooting. If necessary, you will need to refer to a technician or to the supplier where you bought the device.
- **Insurance** – Make sure you are covered for replacement if lost or stolen; the school insurance does not cover personal property.
- **Years 9 – 11** – An HP Stream, Chromebook or Tablet with keyboard is a suitable choice for Years 9 to 11, meeting all the specifications above.
- **Years 12 – 13** – These would still be suitable for students taking subjects, which do not require specialist software or higher specifications. However, when making the choice of device for Years 12 – 13, students and parents should consult the subject prospectus for their chosen subjects and ask for advice from the College if in doubt. For some specialist subjects, a laptop with higher specifications would be an advantage, but is not an absolute requirement.

Although we do not mandate the purchase of a specific model or device, however, we encourage you to buy a product that includes the features above to ensure your child has the greatest possible access to the education resources that will support their learning.

No Funding

All electronics stores have a number of options available; please make sure they meet the minimum specification listed. It pays to look around.

Students and parents/guardians participating in the BYOD programme must adhere to all Board policies and school procedures including the Cyber safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy. They will be required to complete various steps, which include:

Acceptable Use Policy

- **Cyber safety and Acceptable Use Agreement:** Must be read, understood and signed by both parents/caregivers and student.
- **Device specifications:** Does the device meet the schools minimum specifications?
- **Applications:** Essential applications for learning have been downloaded.