



Dear Parents and Carers

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) at Borlase

Introduction

Borlase students are expected to have access to their own wifi capable device to support learning at school and at home. This document aims to provide a brief rationale for this policy and to outline the specifications expected of student devices.

Rationale

The pace of change in IT is rapid and the traditional model of school IT provision - a bookable 'computer room' with thirty desktop machines - is no longer relevant to a world in which ongoing access to internet-capable devices is a reality. BYOD gives teachers the flexibility to make effective use of IT facilities without the need to leave their teaching classroom, facilitating more effective student-student and student-teacher collaboration. The school makes extensive and increasing use of the powerful tools provided by Google's G Suite for Education.

Furthermore, it is increasingly apparent that teachers have an important educational role when it comes to the effective and responsible use of the internet: BYOD facilitates this element of a child's education.

Borlase has had this BYOD policy in place for eight years. The embedded access to learning resources across our school community, plus the familiarity of our teachers with how to make best use of them, has had an enormous impact on our ability to offer a comprehensive and effective continuation of learning and community during the lockdown periods of 2020-21.

September 2023 starters

September 2023 starters should obtain a WiFi-capable device that meets the following specifications:

- is suitably lightweight and robust enough to survive being carried around all day (although we strongly recommend that students bring their device in a protective case)
- is equipped with a genuine keyboard (i.e. tablet devices such as iPads must be accompanied by a folio-type tablet case with keyboard)

- has a battery life sufficient to last the full school day

Experience suggests that Chromebooks such as the HP Chromebook 14, Acer CB314 and Acer CB514 and PC laptops such as the Dell Inspiron 3000 Series are robust and reliable machines. It should be noted that Google Apps for Education is the main platform that students use at school: there is no need for the machine to run Microsoft Windows or Office. A level students following a scientific course of study may find that a tablet with stylus, combined with a folio-type case with a peripheral keyboard, offers the most useful and flexible resource to support learning. As well as Apple iPads, Google Android devices such as Samsung Galaxy tabs have been successfully used by our students.

Yours faithfully

James Simpson
Senior Deputy Headteacher