BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT) PROGRAM

The Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) program at SCAS has been established to improve learning outcomes with educational technology and is reviewed as technology and the needs of teaching and learning shifts. The ubiquitous nature of technology and the learning opportunities provided for students makes a laptop an important learning tool. Much of the student work on devices in both Primary and Secondary School involves using the Google suite of products.

Each student in Years 5 to 12 is **expected to bring a device each day** and to maintain it as their own property.

Students in Years 3 and 4 are also able to bring a personal device to school but it is in no way an expectation.

BYOT Laptop Recommendations Primary School:

Where parents are looking to make a new purchase, these recommendations will provide guidance for suitable devices. Laptops encourage students to develop their touch typing skills whereas tablets generally limit a student's ability to develop some essential computer skills. Please note that that in 2017 SCAS revised our BYOT recommendations and removed Chromebooks from the Senior School as the software requirements extend beyond Internet applications (Google Suite). Some of the Secondary School software is not supported on Chromebooks. Parents may wish to consider how they future proof their investment so their chosen device has a desirable lifespan for the duration of Primary and Secondary School.

BYOT Laptop Recommendations Secondary School:

In Secondary School we have identified that laptops (not including Chromebooks) allow students to install the full range of software available. Students in Secondary will use the Adobe suite and specialist software and hardware required by faculties such as Technology, HSIE and Music. SCAS does have a limited number of higher-end school devices available for specialist use (e.g. 3D printing, intensive Adobe video editing software and specialist music software). These are generally shared among several classes and may not be available in all circumstances, which may limit a student's ability to fully engage in some tasks. A functional and suitable BYOT laptop is both a requirement and a wise investment to ensure uninterrupted learning at home and school.

BYOT Requirements for Secondary Students

Screen Size	13" is preferred as it is a good fit between plenty of display space and fitting in a student bag.
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10 or Apple OSX v10.6.8 or later. Mobile operating systems such as iOS or Android and Windows 10S or Linux are not suitable for secondary students as they are limited in the software they can install to meet classroom needs.
Battery	Minimum 6-hour battery life (8 hours recommended). Charging opportunities are not provided for students and are strongly discouraged for both safety and device management issues. Students may have limited opportunity to charge their devices during the school day.
RAM	4GB is considered the minimum. To run Adobe Creative Cloud, used extensively in Stage 4 Technology classes, 8GB is recommended, while 16GB is great.
Hard Drive	Solid State Drive: This ensures that even lower specification laptops and notebooks will generally operate with speed and increased daily battery life. We advise against eMMC hard drives which are in no way equivalent to a Solid State Drive (eMMC is generally a feature of budget low end devices). Students have access to Google Apps, which includes Google Drive, for storage of files which limits the need for very large hard drives. *256GB is typically suitable for student use*.
Processor i5 or greater	The hardware specifications of most laptops on the market at the moment will be more than suitable for normal school work. Exceptions to this will be students who need to use software with high processing and hardware requirements such as video processing in Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro or Fusion 360. This typically occurs in senior elective subjects starting in Year 9 such as Design and Technology, iSTEM and HSC subjects such as IPT and SDD.

The devices listed below are recommendations only and provide a suitable foundation for hardware comparison. There are four tiers for parents to consider.

<$400 Primary ONLY option	Chromebook Asus Chromebook C202SA	With its classroom ruggedness, the Chromebook is developed to meet the daily rigours and intense usage by students. Chromebooks are limited to Internet based applications such as Google Apps. These devices are suitable for Primary School use only and parents wishing to future proof their investment for Secondary school should look at other options in this list.
< $550	Dell Inspiron 11 3000 Pentium processor Lenovo Ideapad 120s Pentium processor	Devices in this tier generally meet all the requirements of being able to add and install software. Basic processors mean they load software and process data more slowly than those below. They may operate very slowly with higher demand software such as the Adobe Suite. Generally display sizes are smaller in these models.
$550 - $1000	Dell Inspiron 13 5000 Acer Swift 3 14"	Mid-tier laptops and notebooks have faster processor and better displays. Students find the experience working with these faster and more user-friendly.
>$1000	MacBook Air/Macbook Pro Microsoft Surface Pro	Devices in this tier are generally robust and you would consider a purchase in this tier would meet the student needs for the duration of Secondary school. Higher demand software does not compromise the user experience and HD Display is standard.

A range of local and online suppliers have the laptops indicated above as SCAS options. Students and their parents/caregivers are solely responsible for the care, maintenance and damage of their devices. Students bring their devices onto the school site at their own risk.

Kind regards,

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