Dear Parents

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT)

As part of the Hutchins School Strategic Plan, we have a Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) program supporting our blended e-learning curriculum model. Students in Years 7-12 bring their own devices to school. Adding a further developmental year extension to the 2013-2015 ICT strategy, it will be from the beginning of 2016 that the program will be extended to Years 5-12 to bring their own device for authentication on the School's network. This letter outlines some minimum and recommended specifications for devices.

The advantages of the ICT strategy of student owned devices are greater than that of a standardised laptop program. A BYOT program allows students to maintain the locus of control of their device to use seamlessly between home and school, to have greater opportunities for personalised and mobile learning, to differentiate their choice of tools, to have greater technology familiarity, to take responsibility for their learning tools and to have more opportunity to learn and adopt responsible use of technology.

The part that this e-learning and technology plays in our students’ lives to create, communicate and collaborate is broad and ongoing. It is explicitly addressed in teaching and learning at The Hutchins School. Experience to date confirms that it is personal ownership of the learning technology that engages and motivates students. Students are shown how to manage and connect their own wireless enabled devices securely to work on the School’s wireless network and use our virtual learning environment, their cloud storage and their school email.

By virtue of the School’s Education contract with Microsoft, an academic online portal from Microsoft for its Office365 Pro Plus product will be available for free download by students in 2015. Students have a generous monthly allocation of colour and black and white printing in the school’s libraries.

Wireless networking, broadband communications and the BYOT model continues to develop very rapidly with our students in the same way as it does in the wider educational community and the world of enterprise. Many students will want to have multiple devices on the School’s wireless network. This may include their phones, iPads, tablets or laptops. Students use them in a wide range of learning experiences in the curricular and co-curricular programs. We have increasing new evidence of technology in learning support providing efficient and engaging curriculum differentiation in boys’ education.

Two 'smart' technologies of virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and mobile device management technology (MDM) may be used by The Hutchins School to enable our software suite to be available on students’ personally owned devices, both at school and at home for certain subjects. To maintain the integrity of the teaching and learning program no student will be disadvantaged in any way in relation to the availability of hardware, software and services and there will be some school laptops that will remain available for loan.

The Hutchins School will not endorse, mandate products or brands but we do offer a minimum set of specifications for you to consider when purchasing a device for use at school. To work correctly, school funded-software applications and e-texts offered will require a certain level of capacity and performance for the device.
Minimum and recommended specifications for BYOT devices

1. An attached keyboard
2. Battery life of 5 hours or greater
3. Operating System - Windows 8.x or 7 OR MacOS10.8 or higher for compatibility with our wireless network, software and services. IOS and Android devices are not supported as the primary device
4. Screen Size 13” recommended and 11” is minimum.
5. Memory at least 4GB RAM
6. Storage device minimum of 128 GB is recommended. We also recommend Solid-State Devices (SSD).
7. Software – the device must be running licensed versions of all software, particularly operating system software and anti-virus software
8. Weight - the device needs to be light enough for easy transport in its own bag or the standard school bag
9. Warranty – consider purchasing extra warranty for accidental damage protection or to reduce further repair costs.
10. Recommended models and screen sizes are:
    - Acer TravelMate P245 14”
    - Lenovo Yoga2 Pro 13.3
    - Lenovo ThinkPad L440 14”
    - Macbook Pro or Air

    Unfortunately, Chromebooks are not supported on our network.

Minimum operational specifications allow the development of ICT skills and capabilities, such as video and audio recording, desktop conferencing and collaboration, keyboarding input, image manipulation, music composition, web and graphic design functionality, programming or handwriting recognition, use of Asian language characters, and mind-mapping, prototyping, complex visual thinking, computational thinking, coding and 3D visualization.

The teaching staff in the Junior School, Middle School and John Bednall Centre for Excellence are using some Apple iPads as well as class sets of school maintained laptops in 2015. Teachers in the Power of 9 will continue to request a personalised iPod Touch or smart phone to take as a pocket device and camera on the Challenges. There are two class sets of Windows/Android tablets in Years 9-12 available for loan to students as tablet devices. Digital texts and publications can offset the cost to families of the personal or mobile learning device. The Hutchins School has two e-platforms called Overdrive and Wheelers for downloading e-texts, e-books and audio-books which are supported for use on any device.

Further details are available on three blogs:
- HEADMASTER’S http://blogs.hutchins.tas.edu.au/headmaster Strategic planning
- TECHCENTRAL http://blogs.hutchins.tas.edu.au/techcentral IT Help
- LIBGUIDES http://libguides.hutchins.tas.edu.au E-books

For further information please contact Dr Jill Abell our Director of Information Services & ICT on 6221 4225 or via email at Jill.Abell@hutchins.tas.edu.au These details will be provided on the public Communique ‘news’ page of the School’s website.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Warwick Dean
HEADMASTER
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