

RE: Bringing a laptop device in 2021

November 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

In the first transition pack you received we foreshadowed the importance of your child having a suitable laptop device when they join the College in 2021. As part of the College's Bring Your Own Device Program we have a partnership with JB HiFi who can provide suitable laptop devices recommended by our school. Details on accessing school recommended devices are available below and on the enclosed JB HiFi leaflet.

Expectations

In 2021, the College expects that all students bring a suitable laptop device that is charged and ready to use to all classes. This has changed from previous years as from the start of 2021 tablet devices, such as iPads, are no longer permitted as new devices on our network.

Our IT department will connect suitable laptop devices to the College network and install any school related software, as required, providing the student and their parent/carer have signed the Student IT Code of Conduct and BYOD Policy.

Why a laptop and not a tablet?

The move to laptop based devices is underpinned by the increased functionality that a laptop provides. The ability to multi-task, the full size keyboard and in some cases a stylus, provide students with enhanced learning opportunities, which better supports their development of 21st century skills which are needed to engage effectively in the modern world.

Recommendations

The College has partnered with JB HiFi to provide three suitable BYOD devices at different price points that we would recommend you consider if you need a new device. To access these recommendations please go to our partner portal available through the link below and enter our code.

<https://www.ibeducation.com.au/byod/> Code: SUNCOL2021

An added advantage of buying a device through our school portal (with extended onsite warranty) is the option to have our school technicians manage warranty issues here at school. This means if there is a problem covered by warranty our technicians can organise to have it repaired on site.

Whether you purchase a suggested device or bring another device, the College **highly recommends you purchase extended warranty and accidental damage/theft insurance** to protect your investment. Sunbury College has no insurance cover for students' personal property and cannot take responsibility for the damage or theft of devices at school.

Other Devices

Students are permitted to bring alternative laptop devices provided they meet the minimum specifications set out at the end of this letter. Devices that do not meet the minimum specifications will not be connected to the school's network and are not permitted in class.

Many local primary schools have well established iPad/tablet programs and students have historically transitioned with their iPad/tablet device from grade six. While these devices and the apps they run may be appropriate in a primary school context, research has shown that full laptop functionality provides a greater range of learning opportunities, especially as students progress into specialist subjects in secondary school.

More information

For more information see the BYOD section on the Sunbury College Website or contact Jared Dyson, Assistant Principal, by phone on 9744 1066.

Kind Regards



Jared Dyson
Assistant Principal

Minimum BYOD Device Specifications for 2021

Below is the list of minimum specifications (standards) that must be met for a device to be connected to the school network. If you are unsure about the specifications of your device, contact our IT department who may be able to help identify if your device is suitable.

Permitted Devices and Minimum Requirements

- Laptop functionality refers to a full size keyboard with the ability to run either OSX or Microsoft Windows
- Laptops Specifications (Windows based machines are strongly)
 - 4GB of RAM
 - 128 GB of Storage
 - i3 Processor or greater (or equivalent)
 - Screen of at least 12" or more
 - Touch screen with a stylus (Optional but highly recommended)
- The battery life of devices must be 4 hours or more (students are not permitted to charge their device in class due to OH&S requirements)

Approved Operating Systems compatible with the College network:

- Windows 8.1, Windows 10* (recommended), OSX 10.13 and up (Apple)

*Windows 10s is not supported