

Bring your Own Device (BYOD) 2018

Introduction

Hillcrest High School students who will be in Year 9 and Year 10 in 2018, will be expected to bring a digital device to school to support and enhance their learning. Digital devices will not replace conventional teaching and learning methods but instead complement them by creating new learning opportunities.

Why is this important?

Students need to develop the digital literacy and fluency skills that are becoming increasingly important and sought after by industry. The use of the internet and digital tools for education and commerce is increasing at an exponential rate and by introducing BYOD, Hillcrest High School is recognising the importance of engaging and encouraging students to develop and master the skills they will need to succeed in a world that is seeking school leavers who are confident, collaborative, creative and connected.

NZQA (New Zealand Qualification Authority) is currently on a journey of transformation to digital assessment and expects to have all NCEA external exams (appropriate for an online format) to be online by 2020. From 2020 on, NZQA hopes to secure its ultimate goal of all appropriate assessments being undertaken online, anywhere, anytime.

What are the device requirements?

The device needs to be suitable for word processing and editing documents, manipulating photos, collaborating online and using internet resources and tools. Devices suitable for this purpose are: Chromebook, Laptop, Ultrabook or MacBook. Smart phones, iPads or other tablet devices are NOT suitable for our learning programmes.

Devices need to be highly portable and have a long battery life. Students will need to carry their device from class to class every hour and will not be able to rely on having time or a place to recharge their battery during the day. Devices must also be wireless and internet capable, have a good warranty and be robust.

What do we recommend?

The device we are highly recommending for our 2018 Year 9 and Year 10 cohort is the

Chromebook. The advantages of Chromebooks are:

- Learning is not app-driven
- Value for money – no unnecessary software costs
- Consistency of user experience
- USB Ports
- Keyboard
- Ergonomic
- Hybrid Storage – cloud/Offline
- Easy to replace/repair
- Fast start-up, long battery-life



Where to buy?

Specific information/recommendations about retailers and devices will be made available at the **Hillcrest High School Open Day/Evening** on Thursday, 10th August. In addition, extended payment options for families who are unable to pay for a ChromeBook in full, or within the 6-12 month term common to retailers will be explained. Hillcrest High School has a special arrangement with **Cyclone Finance** to help families in this situation.