The Digital Education Revolution – NSW
Transforming the Classroom at Rouse Hill High School
Parent Information Evening

Monday 6th May, 2013
Rouse Hill High School Hall 6.00 – 6.45pm

Since 2009 Year 9 students in NSW government schools have been issued with a Lenovo laptop. This has been funded by the National Secondary School’s Computer Fund component of the Federal Government’s Digital Education Revolution. Currently there are no provisions from the Federal Government to extend funding for this program beyond 2013 and as a result have advised schools on a range of options for the use and distribution of the 2013 including:

- creating a pool of laptops to be stored and managed at school
- issuing laptops to year 9 students for a loan period
- issuing laptops to year 9 students for loan with property rights given to students at the conclusion of their studies in year 1.2

The Rouse Hill High School Technology Team have evaluated the options and decided to issue the laptops to the 2013 Year 9 cohort on a one year loan period. This decision was made in consideration of Rouse Hill High School’s strategic plan for the development and implementation of technology across the school. It is important to understand that the major changes from previous years of the DER program is that the laptops are the property of the school unless decided otherwise. This decision is to be reviewed during Term 4 of 2013 and may result in the school adopting one of the alternative options mentioned above or extending the loan period.

2013 Lenovo laptop

All laptops come with Microsoft and Adobe software, giving NSW students and teachers access to the largest and most comprehensive roll out of software in any educational system worldwide. The Department of Education and Communities has also invested in wireless networking and technical support for all secondary schools as well as professional learning for teachers.

The laptop weighs just over 1.5kg and fits easily into a school backpack. Studies show the benefits of providing laptops to each student are:

- increased student motivation, engagement and interest,
- improved student organisation and improved self-directed learning,
- increased academic achievements and better work habits,
- improved communication and information skills.

Laptop Loan Charter

Parents/carers and students will be required to sign a Laptop Loan Charter prior to the issue of the laptops. The Charter will be issued to parents/carers on the night of Monday 6th May 2013, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. The front page of the signed Laptop Loan Charter is to be returned to the School Administration Office by Friday the 10th May 2012. The laptops will be issued in the week beginning Monday 20th May, to those students who have returned their signed Laptop Loan Charter and successfully completed a DER competency test. The DER competency test will be completed during school time and is designed to assess the students understanding of digital citizenship and the Laptop Loan Charter agreement.

Rouse Hill High School will provide information regarding requirements, ownership, damage or loss of laptops, laptop care and acceptable computer and internet use at the information evening and when the laptops are provided.

The school can also provide advice on the best academic use of the laptop, safe internet use, copyright, plagiarism, and ergonomics. We urge you to attend this very important evening.

Mr R. Medcalf
Head Teacher Music and Visual Arts
Technology Team Leader

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