Year 7 - 10 BYOD Information 2015

3 December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the end of the Digital Education Revolution one to one laptop program in schools, the Department of Education and Communities has published the Bring Your Own Device policy for implementation in schools. Rouse Hill High School is committed to providing an engaging learning environment for all students and we are keen to support teaching and learning utilising one to one devices.

As such, we will be implementing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for all students in Year 7 through to 10, from the beginning of the 2015 school year. BYOD refers to students bringing a personally owned device to school for the purpose of learning.

RHHS has conducted a number of BYOD trials over the past two years and one of these trials has been the use of Google Chromebooks with one Year 8 class for the duration of the 2014 school year. The trial revealed that the use of Chromebooks is a cost effective, low maintenance one to one solution that will best meet the teaching and learning needs of staff and students.

Chromebooks offer fast, efficient access to web browsing and cloud based programs including word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software and other web based learning applications, without the need for costly back end management. Staff will be able to troubleshoot the Chromebooks with relative ease in order to ensure that as much time as possible remains devoted to the teaching and learning process. Another huge advantage is that the work generated on these Chromebooks is stored offsite “in the cloud” and students should be able to access their learning materials and resources from any computer in the world that is connected to the Internet. This also means that the need for costly external backup solutions is reduced and in some cases removed entirely. It is for these reasons that RHHS has decided to adopt Chromebooks as a recommended BYOD solution from 2015.

All students in Years 7-10 are requested to purchase a Chromebook ready for use from the beginning of 2015. In order to facilitate easy purchase of the chosen BYOD Chromebooks, Rouse Hill High School has engaged the services of a third party supplier, Learning with Technologies (LWT). LWT have set up an order portal with two school recommended Chromebook device options: The ACER C730 Chromebook and the Lenovo Thinkpad 11e Chromebook. LWT offer the option to package protective carry cases and extended warranties with the purchase of your Chromebook device. In addition to this, they also offer the option to finance the purchase of a device over a three year period (subject to credit approval criteria).

Should students in Year 9 and 10 identify a need to use a device other than a Chromebook due to specialist subject requirements, then they should complete and return Attachment One – Application to use an alternative device. The device needs to meet a set of specific criteria which is included in Attachment Two. Please note that support offered by Staff for alternative devices will be limited due to the complex and varied nature of the number of devices available on the market. Staff will be trained and able to best support Chromebooks in the classroom.

Although both models available through LWT are suitable options for purchase and use, the school is recommending the Lenovo Thinkpad 11e Chromebook as it has higher specifications in terms of its screen.
quality, system memory, processing speed and is a more robust and durable model compared to the ACER Chromebook. Lenovo has been working with the Department of Education over many years now and has the most experience in developing computers for students that are hard wearing and durable. The cost of the Lenovo is somewhat higher than the ACER but it is expected that the Lenovo will last longer with less incidental damage and wear and tear.

**Purchasing from independent retailers**

Although the products supplied by LWT come with the schools endorsement and recommendation, parents are still free to purchase a Chromebook elsewhere should they wish to do so. In order to ensure compatibility with the school’s wireless network and that the Chromebook is suitable to meet your child’s learning needs in the classroom, the specifications listed below should be used to inform your purchasing decision, should you choose to purchase elsewhere.

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<th><strong>Operating System</strong></th>
<th>Google Chrome</th>
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| **CPU**              | Minimum requirement: Intel Celeron Quad Core (up to 2.15 Ghz)  
                       Recommended:   Intel Celeron N2930 (up to 2.16Ghz), 2MB Cache  
                       Or Higher specifications than listed above. |
| **Screen**           | Minimum requirement: 11.6” HD 1366 x 762 (WXGA) LED-backlit TFT LCD  
                       Recommended: 11.6” HD LED (1366 x 768)  
                       Or a larger screen size/specifications making sure that the Chromebook is still portable enough to carry to school every day. |
| **Memory**           | Minimum requirement: 2GB of DDR3 system memory  
                       Recommended: 4GB DDR3 Memory (1 x 4GB)  
                       Or higher specifications where available. |
| **Wireless**         | Device must have 5GHz 802.11n support  
                       This may be advertised as “Dual Band Wireless”, “802.11abgn”, “802.11agn”, “802.11ac” or “Gigabit Wireless”.  
                       **Note:** Devices marketed as “802.11bgn” are not supported.  
                       Please take care to ensure that your purchased device is compatible with the schools wireless network. |
| **Hard Drive/Storage** | Recommended: 16GB Solid State Drive  
                         Or larger size where available. |
| **Keyboard**         | Minimum requirement: Must have a physical keyboard with keys that can be pressed. |
| **Battery**          | Minimum requirement: Battery should last at least 6 hours  
                       Recommended: 8 hours or longer  
                       Students will not be able to charge the device at school and as such it will need to be fully charged each school day ready for a full day of learning. |
| **Weight**           | Please consider the weight of the device and that your child will need to carry it for the duration of the school day when making your purchasing decision. It is recommended that the total weight is no more than two kilograms. |
| **Camera**           | Minimum requirement: Must have a Front Facing Camera |
| **Carry Case**       | Minimum requirement: To ensure longevity and minimise wear and tear, all students are required to purchase a purpose made protective carry case for their Chromebook. |

**Insurance**

Student devices are not covered by the NSW Treasury Managed Fund and as such they will not be covered by school insurance. Parents and students accept FULL responsibility for the care and use of their own Chromebook.

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device. In particular, the school does not accept responsibility for theft or loss of the device or parts/accessories. It is highly recommended that you purchase accidental loss/breakage insurance for the Chromebook or have it listed on your Home Contents Insurance as a portable valuable in order to ensure that in the unfortunate event that the Chromebook is damaged, lost or stolen that it can be replaced with relative ease.

**Warranty and Maintenance**

Parents may wish to purchase extended warranties to ensure the device is covered for faults for longer than the usual one year period. A realistic lifespan for a Chromebook is approximately three years and as such this should be considered when making warranty purchasing decisions.

Students are solely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of their Chromebooks. The school will only provide support to assist students in connecting their Chromebook to the wireless network.

**Purchasing from Learning with Technologies**

The purchase portal for Rouse Hill High School students can be found at the following web address:


Please use this order portal to place your Chromebook orders with LWT.

LWT have arranged to waive the normal $15 delivery fee for all orders placed before 16th January 2015. These orders will be delivered in bulk to the school early in Term 1, 2015 and distributed to students. Any orders that are placed after the 16th January will be sent to individual home addresses at a cost of $15 (in some cases the delivery may take up to three weeks, depending on stock levels).

**Responsible Usage**

Please be aware that students are required to use their Chromebooks in a responsible and ethical manner. The Rouse Hill High School BYOD Policy will be issued early in 2015 and students will be required to sign a user agreement that indicates their willingness to comply with school conditions for responsible usage before they will be granted access to the school wireless network. Students will not be permitted to connect to the Internet via third party devices (such as 3G mobile hotspots or mobile phone Internet connections) as this bypasses the department’s Internet filtering and students cannot be protected from inappropriate web content.

Please ensure that you have read the above information carefully. Further updates to the policy and BYOD program will be published on the school website as they become available.

Parents experiencing financial hardship should contact the school to discuss their options. Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr Cluness at the school.

Regards

Nathan Cluness
**Head Teacher Administration**

Kim Chapman
**Principal**

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Rouse Hill High School
BYOD Program 2015 – Year 7 - 10
Attachment One – Application to use an alternative device for BYOD Program

Student Name: ______________________________________
Year Level: _________________________________________
Core Class: _________________________________________

Reason for application to use an alternative device:
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

In signing this application:
I acknowledge that support offered for my device will be limited and that I am responsible for any
maintenance or upkeep and ensuring that it is in good working order.

I further acknowledge that I have checked the specific criteria and requirements for alternative devices in
Attachment Two and that my device supports this criteria and requirements.

Student Signature: __________________________________________________________
Parent Signature: ____________________________________________________________
Date: ________________________________
Attachment Two – Specific criteria and requirements for an alternative device for BYOD Program

| Device type: | Laptop, Chromebook, tablet or convertible device  
The chosen device must have a QWERTY keyboard with keys A – Z and separate numeric keys 0 -9  
**Note:** A mobile phone or iPad is not an acceptable device |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Physical dimensions: | Minimum screen size: 9.7”  
Maximum screen size: At the users discretion – please ensure that the device is portable enough to bring to school everyday |
| Operating system: | • Google Chrome  
• Microsoft Windows 7 or later  
• Apple Mac OSX 10.6 or later  
**Note:** Android based devices have been **intentionally omitted** from this list due to incompatibilities with the school's wireless network. |
| Web browser | All devices must have the Google Chrome web browser installed as the school will be utilising Google Apps for Education extensively from the beginning of 2015. |
| Wireless compatibility: | Device must have 5GHz 802.11n support  
This may be advertised as ”Dual Band Wireless”, ”802.11abgn”, ”802.11agn”, ”802.11ac” or ”Gigabit Wireless”.  
**Note:** Devices marketed as ”802.11bgn” are not supported.  
**Please take care to ensure that your device is compatible with the school’s wireless network.** |
| Battery life: | Advertised battery life of at least six hours. The device will need to be suitable for use over an entire school where necessary. |
| Storage space: | Minimum 64GB storage on a windows device  
Suitable access to “Cloud” based storage (the school will be using Google Drive – access to this storage for school will be free). |
| Virus software: | This is a necessary requirement for most laptops and some tablet devices and should be installed on all devices that are connected to the school network. There are some free applications available on the internet, however the best protection is usually provided by a subscription service, for example Norton. |
| Minimum RAM (laptops): | 4GB This ensures that the device will run most applications sufficiently. Some applications require more RAM to run. |
| Maximum weight: | Please consider the weight of the device and that your child will need to carry it for the duration of the school day when making your purchasing decision. It is recommended that the total weight is no more than two kilograms. |
| Protective cover/case: | Minimum requirement: To ensure longevity and minimise wear and tear, all students are required to purchase a purpose made protective carry case for their device. |
| Accidental loss and breakage insurance | Student devices are not covered by the NSW Treasury Managed Fund and as such they will not be covered by school insurance. Parents and students accept FULL responsibility for the care and use of their device. In particular, the school does not accept responsibility for theft or loss of the device or parts/accessories. It is highly recommended that you purchase accidental loss/breakage insurance for the device or have it listed on your Home Contents Insurance as a portable valuable in order to ensure that in the unfortunate event that the device is damaged, lost or stolen that it can be replaced with relative ease. |
| Length and type of warranty | Parents may wish to purchase extended warranties to ensure the device is covered for faults for longer than the usual one year period. A realistic lifespan for a Chromebook is approximately three years and as such this should be considered when making warranty purchasing decisions. |
| Maintenance | Students are solely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of their device. The school cannot provide support for devices that we are not familiar with. |