Year 1.1 – 1.2 BYOD Information 2015

5 December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your student in Year 1.1 or 1.2 in 2015 will continue to have access to a DER Laptop (Red – 1.1 students or Silver 1.2) for their final year(s) of high school. The Year 1.1 laptops were recalled at the end of Year 1.0 in order to facilitate an important transition to the school’s new network environment. Unfortunately this has been a slow process with many technical issues requiring remediation. Without the support of the DER program and support staff, which finished in June this year it has taken longer than hoped to find solutions to the problems that presented during the re-commissioning process.

I am pleased to report that most of the red DER laptops have now successfully been transitioned to the new network environment. As such we will be re-issuing these laptops to the students upon their return to school in 2015.

Students will also have the option to join the BYOD program by purchasing a Chromebook, either through the school supplier Learning with Technologies (LWT) or from an independent retailer. Although this is not a necessary or required purchase, students may wish to have a device similar to that being used by our students in Years 7 – 10. Please be aware that this is purely an optional purchase, students should be able to continue using their DER laptops for most classroom activities.

Should students in Year 1.1 and 1.2 identify a need to use a device other than their DER Laptop or 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 the DER Laptops and Google 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 a Chromebook 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).

**Purchasing a Chromebook from an independent retailer**

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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<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Requirement/Recommendation</th>
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<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Google Chrome</td>
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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 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.

**Responsible Usage**

Please be aware that students are required to use their DER Laptop or 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
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. |