10 September 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is at this time of the year that as a College we start to shift our focus to also include preparations for the following academic school year. Therefore, please find attached information relating to the Secondary School requirements and expectations for the Bring Your Own Device program in 2022.

The lessons that the past 12 months have taught us are that, now more so than ever before, it is crucial that we prepare our students for the digital future that we live in. Whether it be due to a world-wide pandemic, or the increasingly technological society that we now live in, no one can escape the inevitability of needing to use a technology device at home and at work. With the rise of remote learning, and remote working from home, education, business and industry alike are all engaging with technologies to improve efficiency, cost-effectiveness and to allow people to achieve better work-life balance.

In the Prep to Year 10 Australian Curriculum, students are required to develop Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school. Senior Secondary curriculum in Years 11 and 12 is designed to develop the 21st century skills that young people need to be successful in the future and highlights ICT skills as being of great importance alongside critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration and teamwork. The end goal is developing young people who can be innovators, entrepreneurs, life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

Using technology in classrooms facilitates the above needs and has the following benefits for students:
1. Helps connect students to the real world by removing the physical barriers of the classroom to access experiences and information from across the world.
2. Prepares students for the workforce by allowing students to develop a working knowledge of certain technological tools for example: electronic calendars, web pages, teleconferencing, and office software.
3. Encourages collaboration by providing platforms where students can share and edit projects with each other.
4. Supports different types of learners through the use of assistive technology functions available in modern software, for example: magnified text on screen, dictation, speech-to-text and text readers.
5. Access information more easily via search engines and electronic texts and books, plus access 24/7 online help and tutorials readily available via the internet.
6. Teaches students how to be responsible online by practising how to communicate, search and engage with others in a digital environment.
7. Adds an engaging factor to learning for young people who use technology in all aspects of their life at home through digital learning tools that provide feedback on their learning.

I trust that we can rely on our parents and carers to support the education of our students by providing them with the necessary laptop device needed to be used at school every day in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Kylie Gurney
Secondary School Principal

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