

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the world of blended learning and BYOD at St Peter's College.

2018 will be the fourth year of the rollout of BYOD across the school. Every year so far has had its own challenges and learning for us as administrators of the process as well as for the teachers who are adapting to a changing pedagogical environment. I have no doubt that there will be more challenges and lessons learned in 2018 which is a good thing for us, after all, schools are all about learning!

One of the most important things that everyone has learned about is the need for reliable devices which meet certain specifications in order for the students to download all the software that they need for their classes. To that end we have identified five devices that we are asking you to choose from when you purchase as all five meet these specifications.

The other thing that we have learned by collecting parent and student voice through consultation, is that it is important to avoid disappointment regarding reliability of the device by possibly not choosing the absolute entry level option. In the last three years the greatest frustrations have been when choices have been made purely on price point and not on performance and future performance.

It is also important to remember that, depending on the student's option choices in year 11, it might be likely that a student will need two devices over their time at college, one for years 7 – 10 and one for year 11 through to tertiary education. Realistically, this is probably the case for most people anyway as technology improves so rapidly. For example, our own computers here at school are on a three year life cycle.

This year we have decided to work with two organisations in order to offer you choice for the devices that you will purchase for your children.

We continue our relationship with Noel Leeming Gore who have two devices which we have identified as suitable for the needs of the children. These two devices are identified on the attached flyer. Please be mindful that stock of the Asus 11.6" Vivobook E201NA will only arrive in mid-November but that you are able to go into the shop in town and pre-order it.

We have begun a new relationship with Cyclone which will allow you to purchase your devices online via a school portal. You are able to access this portal by visiting:

URL: <https://byod.cyclone.co.nz/stpeterscollege>

Password: stpeterscollege2017

There are three devices offered that we have identified as suitable for the needs of the children. The Lenovo N24 Yoga Convertible*, Acer Aspire Switch 12 and the Microsoft Surface Pro that all come with a 3-year Manufacturer's Warranty. You also have the option to add a laptop sleeve and 3-year Crown Material Damage (Accidental Damage Insurance) with up to three claims with nil excess. Please see the Cyclone flyer for more information.

*Note: The Lenovo N24 Yoga Convertible currently has low stock levels. New stock is due to arrive mid-December.

We will be communicating with you about how to download the Microsoft 365 Office Suite prior to the beginning of term one 2018 so that your student is set up and ready to go from day one of next year.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions regarding this, but if your questions are technical in nature I may not be able to answer them immediately as I'll need to seek advice from our experts.

Kind regards

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