



31 October 2018

Dear Year 3-5 Parents in 2019

## ***Technologies and Devices at St Mark's***

Our vision is to enable students to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that they can use when they leave school and eventually enter the workforce. To ensure that our students are industry ready, we are committed to integrating technology into the learning environment to enhance and transform learning experiences. In light of this, the School has recently updated our School-leased devices in Years 3, 4 and 5.

### **What this means for you?**

- In Year 3, parents will be required to contribute \$131.25 per term for the School provision of a device and IT services (server infrastructure, wireless access, LMS, software, virus scanning etc).
- In Year 4, parents will be required to contribute \$142.50 per term towards the device and IT services as above (please note that the device is of a higher specification to allow for greater functionality).
- In Year 5, parents will be required to contribute \$148.75 per term towards the device and IT services. Additionally, Year 5 students will have 24/7 access to their school provided device. ***Please note that due to students being able to take these devices home each night, parents will be required to sign a Terms and Conditions Policy.***

### **Resources that may be of interest to you:**

- Link to view the device for Year 3 to 5 students: <http://bcove.me/rlhjbopw>
- Video explanation of Digital Technologies from the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMUkJ3qLoVw>
- School Curriculum and Standards Authority - rationale for the Technologies Curriculum: <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/curriculum-browser/technologies/digital-technologies2/technologies-overview/rationale>
- ICT capabilities: <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/media/1074/general-capabilities-information-and-communication-ict-capability-learning-continuum.pdf>

### **What are the features of School-Leased Year 3-5 devices?**

The versatile HP device strikes the right balance of mobility, durability, and security in a device that is designed to last. Ideal for challenging environments, this versatile detachable PC lets you work the way you want. This device is a conventional notebook with the added advantage a detachable keyboard and a stylus that supports the use of digital ink. The device allows for:



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- Unique capabilities for note-taking
- Access to notes, files, & internet all on one convenient device
- Supports multiple learning styles
- Facilitates communication, collaboration, engagement

**Less obtrusive** – Writing notes with the stylus is quieter and less obtrusive than typing. With regular notebooks, students' heads can be hidden from view behind the screens. This does not happen while in tablet mode because the tablet is either flat on the desk or cradled in the students' arms.

**Digital Ink** – The device allows users to write and draw on the screen. This informal means of text input (vs. keyboarding) is more conducive to certain types of writing, such as note-taking, diagramming, and journaling. There is greater flexibility for students to erase, reorganize and make changes to their notes. Students also tend to improve their handwriting skills through the use of the handwriting conversion capabilities of the tablet pc, which ensure they will be capable of sitting three-hour written exams.

**Organisation** – The device allows users to access everything in the one place. Microsoft OneNote allows students to streamline the research and writing process, and keep their class notes in an organized and fully searchable format. Flags can be used to highlight important things to remember or questions that may require follow up.

**Collaboration** – The device form factor encourages more collaboration because students can gather around and work together on one tablet, and then project their group's work to the classroom projector. With Microsoft OneNote, it is easier to collaborate via tablet pcs using a shared session, all students working in a group are able to contribute to the same page via a wireless network.

**Supporting multiple learning styles** - Being able to draw and write notes better supports and engages a wider range of learning styles, particularly visual and kinesthetic learners. Using multiple pen colors improves emphasis of important points and understanding of categorized concepts, sound recording in OneNote enables recording audio "in-synch" with the note taking. Students can search their notes, even the handwritten portions, and subsequently replay the audio associated with that item.

**Software applications** –The Microsoft Office suite allows the use of digital ink within all of its applications, which allows students to annotate or edit their work and draw diagrams with ease.

**Electronic resources** – electronic resources are more interactive and engaging, easier to read, manipulate, and annotate on this device.

Adapted from: [http://technologypd.pbwiki.com/Tablet+PC's+\(Part+II\)](http://technologypd.pbwiki.com/Tablet+PC's+(Part+II))



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. I have children in other parts of the school, what is the device plan for the Middle and Senior School for 2019?**

#### ***Middle School Years 6, 7 and 8***

Our Middle school students will join the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program with the recommended device of the HP Pro x2.

#### ***Senior School Year 9-12 in 2018***

Year 9-12 students are part of the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program. While you will have a choice of device for your child to use for Year 9-12, we have set minimum specifications required for the device, and, again, families are able to take advantage of the offer with our Technology Partners.

### **2. How will you monitor screen time?**

There is no desire to push all learning experiences through an electronic portal and, although we remain committed to progressive best practice, we firmly believe in the development of foundation skills that do not always require the use of technology. There will be times when there is explicit use of technology, other times when the use of technology may be seen as the best choice amongst a range of options for a particular task and other experiences where technology is not required at all.

### **3. Are families able to purchase the device at the end of contract?**

No, as these devices will be leased. To minimize the financial obligation placed on families, the bulk purchase of the devices to be integrated in Years 3, 4 and 5 are included as part of a commitment for the supplier to "buy back" all devices at the end of a three year period, currently defined as the expected lifetime of technology devices. This understanding has allowed for lower pass on costs to families.

### **4. What criteria does the School use when determining a recommended device for your child?**

The device:

- Must be compatible with the School's Standard Operating Environment and run efficiently on the School network
- Must be sufficiently robust to withstand the physical pressures of an educational environment for the period of its expected life. This relates particularly to screens, casings and hard drives
- Should be technologically current when purchased
- Should not exceed approximately 2 kg in weight (including bag) OR be compensated in weight by removing the carrying of text books to and from school and class
- Should represent value for money in total cost of the package
- Other considerations (for example):
  - capacity and type of hard drive
  - number and of type of external ports
  - presence/absence of 3G



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## **7. Why can only the Year 5 student's take the device home?**

We are deliberately not allowing Year 3 and 4 students to take the device home. The purpose for this is twofold; we do not believe that they are ready to carry the responsibility of looking after the device, and we also want to be proactive participants of monitoring screen time. In Year 5, students will have given the opportunity to take the device home. This is in alignment with key learning intentions in responsibility, organization and preparation for Middle School.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [aholloway@stmarks.wa.edu.au](mailto:aholloway@stmarks.wa.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

*A Holloway*

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