

Year 8 ONE to One Laptop Initiative

Why are we implementing a One to One Laptop Program with Year 8 students?

We believe that it is essential for students to have access to a laptop to further develop their learning potential. Our teachers have been undergoing intensive training to enable them to deliver curriculum in different and more effective ways. Teachers are working on developing Moodle sites which feature interactive online delivery of curriculum. This means that all the necessary curriculum documents and resources are available to students 24/7. In addition, students can use a forum to discuss the work with each other and to obtain help if they need it. It also encourages students to work at the pace that best suits them.

We are trying to develop in our students the high level of research skills necessary for 21st Century learning. Increasingly the ability to access and use information is a critical part of curriculum frameworks at senior level. The New SACE will also challenge students to develop and present their work using a range of media. The proposed Australian Curriculum emphasizes use of IT as a critical skill that all students need to develop.

Why do students need their own computer?

We have been working on using technology to personalise learning for our students. This means allowing students to pursue their areas of interest and to meet requirements in ways that suit them best. The Personal Learning Plan and the Research Project are examples of personalising learning in the New SACE where students have a large say in determining what they study and how they present it. By the time Year 8 students reach Senior School they will be expected to work independently and self manage the demands of their learning. This means learning how to manage their work flow in an adult like way. Adults find the best way to do this is through technology. It is important that students have these skills by the time they reach Year 12 if they are to perform at their best.

What happens to the relationship between student and teacher?

It is important to state that teachers will still work with students in a personal and direct (face to face) way. Technology will not replace this relationship; it will be used to complement and support the delivery of teaching and learning, not replace it.

How will the One to One Laptop Program work?

The school will provide a laptop from the Federal Government's Digital Education Revolution to each Year 8 student in semester 2. The 13.3" ACER laptop will come with

- 4 Gig RAM
- A pre charged 6 to 8 hour battery
- Software included
- A Glenunga image on the machine to allow it to connect to our network
- Asset tracking and theft recovery software
- A neoprene protective cover

This machine weighs 1.6 kg and fits very well inside a student back pack. Insurance will be covered by the DECS procedures except where damage occurs because of negligence or wilful damage. In such cases the parent may be held liable for the cost or repairing the machine. To be a part of this scheme parents will have to sign an agreement indicating that they accept the details of this program. A handbook will be provided to families giving detailed information about the laptop program.

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