



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Dear Parent / Carer

Chromebooks Virtual Information Evening

We are very aware that this scheme has been long time in fruition, however as promised, we are nearly there! Coinciding with the online portal going live, we will be holding a Chromebooks Virtual Information Evening on Tuesday 25th May, 5:30 until 6:30pm, for both parents/carers and students, which will hopefully answer any questions you may have before committing to the scheme.

At the Information Evening, we will talk you through topics such as our vision for blended learning, specifics on the financing of the Chromebooks and the preparations staff are undertaking to make their lessons "Chromebook-ready". You will hear from Miss Keeping, Head of Year, Barnaby Woodruff-Morton, our partner representative for Academia and myself.

We are on schedule to hit the previously advertised dates, with the portal going live on 24th May. Here, you will be able to log in and make your selection from 3 options, these being:

- Just the Chromebook License
- Chromebook and License (here, you can also add a protective sleeve for an additional cost)
- Full bundle (Chromebook, License, Insurance and protective sleeve)

Payment can be made in one single instalment via Debit or Credit Card or you will have the ability, through the portal, to apply for financing to spread the cost (not applicable where only the Chromebook License is being purchased).

You can access the portal by clicking on this link, however, the portal is not yet live, so you will not be able to make any purchases until on or after 24th May:

<https://buckinghamschool.store.academia.co.uk/shop>

We have already received a number of enquiries from some parents and felt it appropriate to share those questions and answers in an FAQ sheet below.

We very much look forward to sharing more information with you at our Virtual Information Evening on 25th May!

Yours faithfully

Mr D Osborne
Director of IT

dosborne@buckinghamschool.org

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to office@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



1. How much is the list price for the Chromebook?

It retails at around £300. However, as it is not available on the high street, internet prices differ significantly.

2. What discount has the School secured for parents on the price of the Chromebook?

We have secured an Educational Discount equivalent to approximately 10%. These devices are not available to purchase on the high street with all the educational features included.

3. What is the technical spec of the Chromebook?

I have attached a Data Sheet (produced by Lenovo) which gives the full device specifications.

4. If the Chromebook is not purchased through this scheme, why would an alternative Chromebook need a Chromebook license?

Our priority is to ensure our students are safe and secure. The License is required to join the school network and allows us to remove the student as the device administrator. This is to prevent students from downloading applications without permission/installation of apps that could bring the student and/or school into disrepute. The License will be removed and these restrictions lifted by the IT team when the student leaves the school. This is to safeguard both the student and the school. The license in addition to Impero Cloud which allows our teaching staff and the IT team to ensure that students are safeguarded.

5. What makes the schools preferred Chromebook a better choice than an alternative model?

We are a "Google School", using Google for all of our remote and extended learning. The device was picked to ensure consistency, ability for staff and learners to navigate the operating system easily, loading time of the machine (open the lid and immediately available) and the simplicity that Microsoft Office products (e.g. Word, Excel, Powerpoint) are available as internet based Google Docs, Google Sheets and Google Slides. It is the software students use in computing suites. Additionally, the device itself is light-weight and especially designed for students to use in all lessons with its rugged shell and tamper proof/anti-spill keyboard.

6. If a parent/carer purchases a Chromebook through this scheme, does that parent own the Chromebook? If so, what modifications will the school make to it to allow it on the school network?

Chromebooks purchased by the parent/carer through this scheme are indeed then owned by the parent/carer/student.

The License which you will also need to purchase (which we will then install) is to allow us to remove the student as the device administrator. This is to prevent students from downloading applications without permission/installation of apps that could bring the student and/or school into disrepute. The License will be removed and these restrictions lifted by the IT team when the student leaves the school. This is to safeguard both the student and the school.

7. If a parent/carer purchases a Chromebook through this scheme, will the Chromebook be kept at school or will it go home with the child?

Chromebooks purchased by the parent/carer through this scheme are owned by the parent/carer/student and will remain with the student at all times, hence why we are suggesting that you consider purchasing a protective sleeve! They will then be able to

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use the device for all their learning both in and out of school - we are asking parents to support this to allow for the same device to be used for all learning activities.

8. If a parent/carer purchases a Chromebook through this scheme, how will it be assigned to the child that owns it, given that all Chromebook are being delivered to the school?

When the Chromebooks are delivered to school, each will bear the name of the purchaser/student. Each device will be carefully unpacked by our IT team and the License installed. They will then be re-boxed and handed out to the student. Students will be asked to sign to say they have received their device.

9. Other than cost, what is the justification for using Google products over Microsoft or Apple?

Apple and Microsoft are great products and we are not stating that students shouldn't use these. However, Google Suite best fitted our needs and was therefore what we as a school opted for. Teaching staff have been re-writing schemes of learning using the Google Suite and students have been using Google (in computing suites) and already receive assignments through Google Classroom. A number of staff have completed specific training to become Google Certified.

On a separate note, we are currently rather frustrated that a set of Ipads in school that have now become obsolete due to the need for an upgrade!

10. If a parent/carer purchases a Chromebook through this scheme, is the device to be kept at school and if so, what security will protect the device and who is responsible for replacing it if it is lost or stolen?

Chromebooks purchased by the parent/carer through this scheme are owned by the parent/carer/student and should remain with students at all times, to allow continuity of learning in and out of the classroom. These devices will go home with the student at the end of each day and are the sole responsibility of the parent/carer/student. Therefore, any cost incurred as a result of loss or damage is the responsibility of the parent/carer/student. Unfortunately, we do not have the means to enable students to leave their devices at school overnight.

Should you choose not to purchase Insurance with the Chromebook, we would strongly suggest looking at whether the device can be covered under your home insurance. Similar to mobile phones that students have in their pockets, the message is that we want students to be responsible and accountable for this device (issues if and when they occur will be dealt with appropriately by the HOY including theft/damage by another student).

11. I am in receipt of PP Funding – can I use this to purchase a Chromebook for my child?

Please contact Jenny Mace, in our Finance Team to discuss your individual circumstances. Jenny can be contacted, via email, at jmace@buckinghamschool.org.

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