



17th July 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Blended Learning - Chromebooks

As you may be aware, The Buckingham School is embracing the benefits of a blended learning curriculum to better support students' learning and their access to learning materials.

Blended learning refers to the retention of all effective elements of traditional teacher-led classroom instruction (written work, literacy, numeracy etc) and skilfully weaves in digital technologies (digital devices, online resources etc) and collaborative learning.

Our intent is that blended learning will improve learning for all student groups; enabling them to collaborate with each other, access materials, assignments, live content and online work conversations. The opportunity for blended learning to support swifter progress, greater parity of opportunity and adaptability in learning styles and strategies in a normal school environment is second to none. As a result, the School has invested heavily in the infrastructure and learning packages that greatly benefit students, for example, Seneca Learning Premium, which is proven to increase student outcomes.

In order for students to reap the benefits of these resources, we ask that all students are equipped with a Chromebook for use both in School and at home from January 2024 onwards **and** have purchased the licence to use the suite of resources that are available to them.

The Chromebook licence will allow the device to be registered on our School network and, as we have a duty of care for safeguarding, it will also provide additional security features as well as support from our IT Team. Currently, the cost to purchase a Chromebook Licence is £30 + VAT.

Further details on how to purchase the Chromebook licence will follow in due course.

In order to help you choose the right Chromebook, we **highly recommend** that you purchase a device that meets the specification below:

11.6" Screen Size

4GB RAM

64GB Storage (eMMC)

Auto-Update Expiration Date of June 2028 or later

Attached to this letter is a list of approved Chromebooks, which may help you in selecting the right device for your child.

In addition to the Chromebook and Chromebook licence, should your budget allow, we would also strongly urge you to consider purchasing Accidental Damage and Theft Insurance in order to protect this investment.

Already Purchased a Chromebook?:

We are very aware that parents may have already purchased Chromebooks to support their child's learning. Where this is the case, you will only need to purchase the licence in order that your child can access the learning packages available to them.

Please be aware that only the use of a Chromebook will be acceptable. A Laptop, iPad/Tablet or other Windows device will not be permitted in School.

Do I have to purchase a Chromebook Licence?:

The Chromebook licence will allow the device to be registered on our School network and then protects the device through enhanced security features, support from our IT Team and access to the numerous online learning platforms we use in School, such as Seneca Learning.

Once registered on our School network, some security changes are required to be made to the device.

As a result, the following will occur:

- The Chromebook will be locked to the single educational profile until the child has left the Buckingham School
- All updates/changes are managed centrally, through the School
- If there is a private account already present on the device, it will need to be removed prior to the licence being applied, or there will be a loss of your data (all photos and account information)

You will also be required to provide written permission that you are happy for the School to make any such changes to the device and that you are aware of the impact such changes will have.

Your child will not be able to use their Chromebook in School if it does not have a licence.

Repairs/loss/damage concerns:

We must reinforce that although our IT support team can assist with technical issues/diagnosis, the School will not be responsible for any damage/fault. It will be your responsibility to arrange for repair or replacement.

Should a student's device require repair or replacement, the School will be able to provide a device on loan each morning, (where stock is available), which will need to be returned at the end of each day. The student will not be able to take this loaned device home. We will be able to provide this on a temporary basis only and you may be asked to provide evidence detailing the duration of repair/replacement.

Does my child have to have a device?:

We are currently running the scheme with the majority of our current Year 8 and 9 students participating. The impact of this change has been hugely positive and resulted in a dramatic shift in how we teach and support our students. We look forward to developing blended learning further as the scheme continues.

The previous lockdowns, particularly having to switch to remote learning at a moments' notice, has shown how essential technology has become in our everyday lives. And a clear need to tackle the Digital Divide and support all students in having access to technology.

We cannot provide a device for all learners at all times, therefore, this is the solution that schools nationally are adopting. There will be a bank of devices available for students to hire if they do not have their own device (but this will be limited). Students will be required to collect and return their hired device at the start and end of the day and they will not be permitted to take the device home.

The aim of this Chromebook Scheme is to provide students with a device which they can use in School and at home for Extended or Remote Learning that they take full responsibility for. We strongly encourage all parents to support the School in providing a device for their child.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding and you would like to use some of this funding to assist with the cost of the Chromebook, please contact rmcfarlane@buckinghamschool.org, who will log your request and be in touch with further details.

I appreciate you may have some questions or queries regarding this scheme; if so, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Townes (ltownes@buckinghamschool.org), who will do her very best to assist.

Thank you once more for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Peel

Deputy Headteacher

rpeel@buckinghamschool.org

Recommended Devices:

<https://www.currys.co.uk/products/hp-11ana0000sa-11.6-chromebook-mediatek-mt8183-64-gb-emmc-white-10241906.html>

<https://www.argos.co.uk/product/4166768?clickPR=plp:3:31>

<https://www.laptopsdirect.co.uk/asus-chromebook-flip-cr1-intel-celeron-n4500-4gb-64gb-ssd-11.6-inch-chrome-cr1100fka-bp0166-3y/version.asp>

<https://ao.com/product/63w58eaabu-hp-11ane0000na-laptop-grey-92325-251.aspx>

Q. Why does the school want to use Chromebooks?

1. Affordability
2. Ease of Use
3. All apps controlled via school when students in school, (no updates needed)
4. Locks students' other accounts during school hours
5. Battery life
6. Small and manageable
7. Touch screen for apps (on certain devices)
8. Keyboard for typing



Using Chromebooks and the School's Google Drive affords a very high level of security to support safeguarding both on and off School grounds. This will give students and parents added confidence in the use of these devices. All Google Drive files and emails are 'owned' by the School and as such, can be retrieved at will for investigations etc, for the duration of the student's time here.

The use of devices will be supported by the already successful e-security education programme received by students through PSHCE.

Q. Will the Chromebook last for the duration of my child's education at The Buckingham School?

Yes, the Chromebook models we recommend will last for at least 7 years. This should be more than enough to support students' learning until they reach Sixth Form.

Q. I have more than one child in the School, do they all need a device?

Yes. The Chromebooks will be used frequently throughout the School day, so individual devices will be required.