



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Dear Parent / Carer

Chromebooks

After a successful roll-out with our Year 8 students, we are now looking to roll out the Chromebook Scheme to our current Year 7 students so they have their own portable digital device to use both in school and for extended/distance learning.

We have reviewed the effectiveness of the use of Chromebooks with our Year 8 students and have continued to look at what devices are being used in other schools. From this, we are satisfied that the Chromebook still remains the best device in terms of portability, speed, affordability and security as well as offering consistency for students and teaching staff.

Ideally, we would like each student to have their own Chromebook ready to use for when they move up to Year 8 in September 2022. However, the cost of such a device remains our primary concern in these challenging times.

We are still in the process of finalising details of this years' offering with our Scheme Partner, therefore, information regarding the device and cost will be communicated to you as soon as it is available. However, we would like to give you an idea of the costs involved and potential finance agreements available.

Based on last year's offering, along with:

- the necessary Chromebook Licence
- a sleeve to protect your device whilst in transit between lessons and home
- Accidental Damage and Theft Insurance (however, please do check if this would be covered under your Home Insurance Policy)

The cost of the Chromebook, is likely to be in the region of £350. Last year, our Scheme Partner was able to offer finance agreements allowing you to spread the cost and we are hoping they will be able to offer similar this year. To help inform our work with our Scheme Partner, can you please complete the following survey.

[Chromebook Rollout 2022-2023](#)

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 finance@buckinghamsschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Already Purchased a Chromebook:

We are very aware that parents have been preparing for this change in our IT policy, with some parents having already purchased a Chromebook or wanting to purchase their own outside of this scheme. This does present an issue for the school as we are asking students to have a device that is safe, since it will be joining our network. It is our duty to ensure the safeguarding of all students in and out of school and a safe, approved device will assist us in doing so. In order for your child to use a Chromebook in school, which has been purchased outside of this scheme, you will be required to purchase a Chromebook Licence costing approximately £35 - £40.

Important details to take note:

Please be aware that if you are thinking of purchasing your own device, only a Chromebook would be acceptable. A Laptop, iPad/Tablet or other Windows device will not be permitted in school.

The Chromebook Licence allows the device to be registered and used on our School network, however, this will require some security changes are made to the device. This will result in a loss of data so we strongly suggest that if there are any files, photos etc. on the device which you wish to keep, these are backed up prior to your child bringing the device into school. You will also be required to provide written permission that you are happy for the school to make any such changes to your device and that you are aware of the impact such changes will have.

The Chromebook is locked to a single school profile and is managed by the school for safeguarding purposes. We will require a signature from a parent and the student to confirm you are aware of this.

Repairs/loss/damage concerns:

We must reinforce that although our IT support team can assist with technical issues/diagnosis, 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 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:

There is always the question, why should I buy a device for my child? This scheme has been a long time in the making, with Curriculum teams planning for over two years now, for students to be able to use devices in lessons. In this modern world, teaching and learning without technology is disadvantaging our learners. The recent lockdowns, having to switch to remote learning at a moments' notice, has proved only too well how essential technology has become in our everyday lives.

As a school and like many other schools, 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.

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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, and that they take full responsibility for. We strongly encourage all parents to support the school in providing a device for their child.

We appreciate you may have some questions or queries regarding this scheme; please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our very best to assist. Thank you once more for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

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