Cobram Anglican Grammar School

Bring Your Own Device

Program

BYOD

About the BYOD Program

The BYOD Program is a vital learning tool for students providing:

- Access to school resources including student email
- Access to digital textbooks for many subjects
- Industry-standard software for creating, editing, and presenting
- Wireless connection at the school with access to printers, network resources & the Internet

As part of the IT program, Cobram AGS has implemented a mixture of technologies to provide students with the tools they need to maximise their learning potential.

- Access to email and calendar functions, accessible from either the Outlook Mail App or a Web Browser
- Office 365 for students which provides applications for Word Processing, Spreadsheets and Presentations
- Work folders allow students to store data securely on School servers and access it both at School and Home (only accessible by MAC users at school)

The over-arching objective for the program is to give students 'One to One' access to a learning tool which provides them with the opportunity to collaborate, communicate and research on a global level in real time.

The school supports the use of e-Books/resources across various subjects.

It is widely acknowledged that technology plays a huge role in students' everyday lives and should, therefore, be an integral part of their learning. It is unsustainable to provide every student with state-of-the-art technology. The BYOD program recognises that many students already own devices that are superior and more up-to-date than those available in our school.

About the Program

Q: Why BYOD?

Many parents have expressed a desire to have a choice in the provision of an electronic device suitable for educational purposes for their child, with an increasing number of families electing to purchase/provide their own device.

Q. Which students are involved in the BYOD Program?

Students enrolled in Years 5 to 12 are involved in the program.

Purchasing a device

Q: Which type of device should I buy?

It is recommended that parents/guardians buy a Windows based device as these are most compatible with the Cobram AGS network and will allow students to make maximum use of school resources and facilities.

Apple Mac devices can be used, but with some minor limitations.

Q: Can my child use an Android Tablet or iPad?

Android Tablets/iPads are not suitable under this program as they do not meet necessary system requirements.

Q: What are the minimum requirements?

We have included a detailed set of minimum requirements and functionality available from our website (Cobram Anglican Grammar School BYOD Requirements 2019). We have outlined recommended specifications to help parents choose the most suitable device.

Parents are urged to take this information booklet with them as a reference guide when purchasing a device.

Currently suitable devices can be purchased for less than $600. If parents are unsure we invite them to contact the ICT Department before a purchase is made.

Q: I have an old laptop at home. Can I give this to my child to use?

We strongly recommend that the device your child brings to school is as new as possible so that it meets our minimum requirements and is as functional and reliable as possible. If you are unsure please contact the school for advice.

Q: My children all share a laptop. Will this do for the BYOD Program?

We recommend that students have their own individual device. Ownership of the device is important and students need '24/7/365' access to their technology.

Q: Who owns and maintains the device?

The school does not own the device in any way. It remains the property of the parent/guardian and the child at all times.

Q: I have bought the device, now what should I do?

The device will need to be configured for school use by the ICT Department. Students can drop devices directly to the ICT Department located in the Gearing wing.

Q: Does my device need a case?

It is strongly recommended that all devices brought to school are housed safely in a suitable case. These should be purchased at the time the device is acquired.

Connections at School

Q: Will the school provide Wi-Fi?

Yes, during the school day, students will be able to connect to the internet through the School Wi-Fi service. Students choosing to stay at school after normal hours for study or homework will be able to remain online.

Q: Will there be web-filtering?

When students are connected to the internet through the School's Wi-Fi network, web-filtering is used. Inappropriate websites containing age-restricted and potentially harmful or illegal content will not be accessible. In addition, Facebook and other social media will be blocked whilst at school.

When your child is connected to the internet at home, web-filtering will be limited to your home internet security settings.

Q: Will my child be able to download songs, movies and other media on their device?

A: Your child will be able to download and install any program or files they choose, limited to the network settings at School. Students should be browsing the internet and downloading resources primarily for education purposes. All access to electronic resources on a BYOD device is governed by the Cobram Anglican Grammar School IT Policy.

IT Support

Q: Can the school undertake repairs on my device?

Students should bring their device to the IT Support office for initial diagnosis in the event of a malfunction. If the problem is a school provided resource/service or can be easily fixed then the IT Support staff will do so. Issues that cannot be easily resolved by the IT Support staff and all repairs will be the responsibility of the student/family.

It is recommended all students have Accidental Damage and Theft Protection Insurance. Please check with your home insurance policy regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover loss or damage.

The school ICT Department is not able to undertake hardware repairs on personal devices, as this may infringe warranties and/or insurance policies. However we can offer advice and guidance regarding the maintenance and updating of applications and contact details for warranty assistance, if requested.

Q: What do we do about printing?

Students will be able to print to multifunctional printing devices. Instructions regarding printing will be provided after setup by the ICT Department.

Q: Will there be a means of charging the device at school?

Personal devices must be fully charged before school each day and run on battery power while at school. We strongly recommend parents purchase a device which has a substantial battery life that lasts the full school day.

Q: Will the school provide spare devices while my child's is being repaired?

Spare Netbooks are available for students. These devices are school property and the loan time is usually restricted to three weeks. These devices must stay on school premises. Where it is anticipated that a repair will take longer, parents/guardians can discuss arrangements with the Head of School.

Q: Where is the device to be stored each day?

The student device is to be stored *safely* in the classroom or student locker when not in use. Lockers should remained locked with an appropriate school padlock at all times and we recommend devices not remain on school grounds after the conclusion of school.