

College-Provided Laptop Program - Launch in 2026

Dear Parents,

(This letter is tailored for students entering Year 12 in 2026. Should you have secondary school students in more than one cohort please see the College's letters relevant to each cohort).

As we seek to actively support excellence in student learning, digital wellbeing and equity, the College will commence transitioning to a College-Provided Laptop Program from the start of the 2026 academic year. Initially, this will be aimed at those students commencing secondary school in Year 7, and for those students progressing into Year 10. This initiative will then be extended to incoming cohorts in 2027 and 2028; with students receiving a new device in Year 7 and, as part of a three-year rolling cycle, a new replacement device in Year 10. This progressive roll-out will mean that by 2028 all secondary students will have a College-Provided Laptop. A three-year cycle of replacing Laptops is considered optimal for device performance and mirrors education and industry practice.

There may be options available for students in other Year Cohorts in 2026 (Years 8, 9, 11 or 12) to consider entering into the College-Provided Laptop Program, particularly if their current Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) laptop is older/is not compatible/ has limited capacity. Details regarding this are outlined in the Summary provided at the end of this letter.

The change to a College-Provided Laptop Program is a result of much analysis and consideration amongst key College Staff and our College ICT team.

Benefits of a College-Provided Laptop

Under the current BYOD model, families are required to source laptops based on College guidelines. While this has worked in many cases, it has also presented significant challenges for students, parents and the College:

- Digital safety concerns: Students can currently access inappropriate content outside of school hours, and the ability of the College to assist parents to monitor this is very limited
- Inconsistent matching to specifications has led to software and compatibility issues
- Families having to source laptop devices, often at full retail prices
- Limited ICT support: Our staff cannot properly access or manage student-owned devices, making troubleshooting and support difficult
- Performance problems: Many BYOD laptops contain non-educational or even malicious apps, which affect battery life, speed, and overall reliability
- Classroom disruptions: Students (and consequently their Teachers) frequently face interruptions due to device failures, outdated hardware, incorrect software or battery issues.

By transitioning to College-Provided Laptops, we can ensure every student has access to a reliable, secure, and fully supported device that enhances their learning experience. Furthermore, the College will have an increased capacity to monitor appropriate use and assist parents in this regard.

For Parents

- Enhanced digital safety through a more comprehensive web-filter that monitors and protects students on campus and at home
- No need to source or manage devices independently
- Lower cost through the College's bulk-purchasing capability
- Peace of mind with warranty cover, insurance for accidental damage and College IT support
- Confidence in appropriate device use

For Students

- Enhanced digital safety through an enhanced web-filter that monitors and protects students on campus and at home
- Reliable performance and compatibility
- Seamless access to learning platforms and approved educational apps/programs provided by the College, further emphasising the device as an educational tool
- Prompt replacement of faulty devices as part of IT support
- Improved ability to complete home studies and assignments

For Teachers

- Fewer classroom interruptions
- More effective teaching and learning
- Better tools for monitoring and supporting students
- Consistency of devices running approved apps/programs provided by the College

Cost Effectiveness

For 2026, families of students commencing secondary school in Year 7, and those students progressing into Year 10, will contribute through an annual Laptop Levy of approximately \$660. This includes warranty cover and insurance for accidental damage. This equates to one-third of the total device cost of approximately \$1980. This cost is significantly lower than purchasing a comparable device independently (particularly when software programs, upgrades, approved educational apps, warranty cover and some insurance protection is included). Further, three Levy payments over three years presents less of a financial burden than needing to make one full purchase for a device.

Transition Details for 2026

- Laptops greater than two years old OR which are Apple MacBooks will no longer be supported by the College's ICT team.

In summary, for students entering Year 12 in 2026

For those students/families entering Year 12 who believe that the performance/compatibility/capacity of their existing BYOD Laptop is not sufficient for one more year (2026), they are encouraged to complete the [Parent Laptop Enquiry form](#). Any option of joining the College Provided Laptop Program in 2026 for one year only is not generally considered to be a cost-effective option, as to stay in-step with the rolling three-year cycle of the College Provided Laptop Program, the full amount of \$1980 would need to be applied for 2026.

Yours sincerely



Darren O'Neill
Principal