

College-Provided Laptop Program - Launch in 2026

Dear Parents,

(This letter is tailored for students entering Year 7 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.

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Classroom disruptions: Students (and consequently their Teachers) frequently face interruptions due to device failures, outdated hardware, incorrect software or battery issues.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

We appreciate that some families may have recently purchased a laptop for 2026. Therefore:

- For students commencing secondary school in Year 7 and those students progressing into Year 10 in 2026, laptops less than two years old **may** continue to be used in 2026 only, provided they meet minimum specifications. If you have a laptop less than two years old, please have this assessed by ICT by **17 October 2025** to ascertain whether the Laptop is acceptable.
- Laptops greater than two years old OR which are Apple MacBooks will no longer be supported by the College's ICT team.

The implementation of such a school-wide program is significant and emerges after much consultation with Teaching Staff and the ICT Team, and with due consideration to best practice and family costs. We appreciate your continued support as we endeavour to provide our students with an optimal learning environment whilst ensuring their digital safety.

In summary, for students entering Year 7 in 2026

Students commencing in Year 7 have previously been advised that a Laptop would be required for Secondary School. These students will be issued with a new College Provided Laptop. A Laptop Levy of approximately \$660.00 will be charged to families for each of 2026, 2027 and 2028. At the end of Year 9 (2028), the Laptop will be returned to the College. A new Laptop will be issued to these students as they commence Year 10 (2029). Similarly, a Laptop Levy will be charged to families for 2029, 2030 and 2031. The Laptop will then be returned to the College and be de-commissioned, digitally cleaned, all apps/programs removed, and user access blocked. The replacement of the Laptop at the end of the rolling three-year cycle is considered optimal for device performance and mirrors education and industry standards.

Parents returning Laptops to the College which are in good condition will receive a credit of approx. \$300.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please complete the [Parent Laptop Enquiry](#) form and your query will be quickly addressed.

Yours sincerely



Darren O'Neill
Principal