

## College-Provided Laptop Program - Launch in 2026

Dear Parents,

*(This letter is tailored for students entering Year 9 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

Please note that 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 9 in 2026**

Given that all students were required to commence Year 7 in 2024 with a New BYOD Laptop, it is assumed that all 2026 Year 9 students will maintain this device for 2026. In 2027, as Year 10 students they will be issued with a new Laptop as part of the College Provided Laptop Program. A Laptop Levy will be charged to families for each of 2027, 2028 and 2029. 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 standard

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

For those students/families entering Year 9 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