Cambridge High School

Guidance for Parents
Acceptable Devices for Students

Online learning is built into our programmes across the school. Students need devices that are adequate for classroom use, and parents often request guidance when considering which device to buy. In general, students need a device that provides adequate access to the educational resources that will support and enhance learning. While we do not prescribe a specific model, we do have minimum specifications.

We are a Microsoft school and all of our teachers use Windows 11 and the Office365 applications in class. For this reason, we recommend Windows 11 and ChromeOS devices, MacOS also works with the Office Suite, but are not recommended.

NB A note from our recommended vendors: there may be longer waiting times than usual for delivery of laptops. Please leave enough time for delivery.

Model Considerations

Is this the student's main device they will be bringing to school for BYOD?

- Apple iPads and Android Tablets are NOT supported by our infrastructure or the digitally submitted exam requirements and will not work on the school system.
- Linux based operating systems are NOT compatible with our infrastructure or learning environments.
- A laptop or hybrid device (a tablet with a full operating system and keyboard) provides students with a comprehensive learning tool. This provides the greatest flexibility and will tend to have a longer usable life. Most new Chromebooks are suitable but they operate a less powerful version of O365 in the cloud.
- Models change frequently and there are now a number of hybrid tablet/laptop

Recommended Specifications

- Minimum 12″ screen
- Windows 11 or ChromeOS
- A minimum of 5 hours of use from one battery charge – fully charged at home each day and bring your charger
- Suitable protective case - something that will fit in a school bag and not damage the device
- Microsoft Office 365 - this is available free for all Cambridge High School students and can be installed once term starts.
- Windows Laptops should have a minimum of an Intel i3 or AMD Ryzen 3 Processor, 8GB of RAM and 128GB of SSD Storage. Intel i5/i7 and Ryzen5/7 are more powerful and will last longer.

Other Considerations

- Suitable for carrying in terms of weight, the lighter the better!
- Battery life - check the battery life on the model. Using an SSD (Solid State Drive) can help increase battery life, but adds to the cost
- Processor Speed - these vary, i5 to i7 models are faster.
- Optical Drives (DVD drives) - these are no longer considered essential.
- McAfee, Norton and eSet antivirus **ARE NOT COMPATIBLE** with our security system, and MUST be removed. Please don't pay for it.

We recommend that you view your child's BYOD time at CHS in two parts – the junior years and the senior years. This would mean purchasing a device at the start of Yr 9 that will cater for the generic needs of the junior school and then replacing that device in the senior school (Yr 11 or Yr 12), as the demands of the learning become more obvious. Alternatively, you can opt for a device which is significantly more capable than needed in the junior years, with the intention of keeping it for the full 5 years at CHS.

Please note:

- **Entry Level Laptops**
  Slower with limited space for the installation of applications. The cheaper entry level laptops have such limited memory that once O365 is downloaded, the device begins slowing down. This often limits the life of the device at school. These are good for research and a wide range of web-based functions. If you have purchased a Chromebook for Middle School, you child may find that they can make do for Yr 9 and Yr 10.
- **Mid-Range Laptops**
  All-rounder machines with medium speed and memory. Will work with most graphic-demanding applications such as Adobe and Autodesk.
- **Tablets – NOT SUPPORTED**