



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 10 and the Office applications in class. For this reason, we recommend Windows 10 devices, however, MacOS also works with the Office Suite.

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?

- Some tablets will provide students with a limited learning tool and can be used as an information consumption device - **we do not recommend tablets such as iPads or Android.**
- 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 devices.

Recommended Specifications

- Minimum 12" screen
- A full operating system, preferably Windows 10
- A minimum of 5 hours of use from one battery charge – fully charged at home each day
- 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.



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 antivirus **is not compatible** with our security system, and often has to be removed. Please don't pay for it.

Suggested Devices

You are welcome to purchase either a laptop or Chromebook that meets the needs above. CompuHub and Noel Leeming (Cambridge) are aware of our recommended specifications. CompuHub have good deals for Chromebooks. PB Tech in Hamilton are also a suggested vendor.

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.

Some possible models:

- Lenovo eg 300e Yoga 2nd Gen Convertible with Stylus (currently \$699.99 inc. GST)
- Lenovo eg 100e 2nd Gen Windows Notebook (currently \$579.98 inc. GST)
These models are very basic laptops that meet our requirement but have minimum RAM and processing power - good for Year 9 and 10, but unlikely to last into Years 11-13.
- HP Notebooks eg Probook430 G8 (currently about \$1350 - \$1450)
These are good all-rounders but would be unlikely to last more than 3 years.
- NEW HP ProBook 635 G7 UltraLight Notebook [**AMD**/8GB/256GB] (currently \$1,599.98 inc GST)
- HP ProBook x360 435 G7 Convertible with Stylus (currently \$1,799.98 inc GST)
- NEW HP ProBook 450 G8 Windows Notebook [**i7**/16GB/512GB] (currently \$2,249.99 inc GST)
These are mid to high-end devices and should last your teenager the whole 5 years of high school with careful use for learning purposes.
- Device configurations change regularly, as do prices.

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, your 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 recommended**

Ultra-portable with good battery life. Limited word processing capabilities and keyboard are usually onscreen. Applications limited to reduced features, although frequently a wide range in app stores. Backup, storage and file transfer can be challenging. **Not the equivalent of a laptop.** Prices range from \$400 to \$1200. We do **NOT** recommend tablets at all as they are not suitable for secondary schools.