

# Laptop Program

## *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

### **What devices are and are not acceptable as part of the Laptop Program?**

All laptops are acceptable provided they meet the College's minimum specification requirements.

Chromebooks, Smart Phones (Android or Apple), iPad Minis, PlayStation PSPs and Kindles are examples of devices that are not acceptable, as the specifications of these products do not allow for a rich enough educational experience in a secondary school setting. If you are unsure if a device is suitable or not please contact the IT team at the College.

### **Will there be a warranty and what happens with Insurance?**

If the device is purchased through our College (option 1 or 2), a 3 year warranty and 3 year accidental damage protection insurance is included. If purchasing a device from an external supplier, we encourage you to take out an extended warranty and insurance.

### **What is the expected lifetime of the devices offered through the College?**

The devices offered through the College are expected to function effectively for approximately three to five years, depending on individual use. Students should therefore be able to use their device from Year 7 through to the end of Year 9 and, if maintained appropriately, be able to use this device in later years as they enter the senior school.

### **What is Mount Clear College contributing towards the Laptop program?**

We have developed these options based on a proven model adopted by hundreds of schools called a co-contribution model. This means that both the school and families work together in providing the best possible educational experience for the student.

### **Our contribution towards the laptop program as a school is as follows:**

- Office 365 software and Windows 10 (valued at \$100 per year)
- Educational software (valued at approx \$1,000)
- Full technical support
- Laptop bag
- ICT classes and training in how to get the most out of your device.
- Working in partnership with our supplier to provide you with great pricing.
- Assistance to set up your online account.
- Using the College's buying power to offer you the lowest price.
- A loan device if your device requires a warranty repair so that your child's learning can continue uninterrupted.

### **Will future students be offered the same laptop?**

As time progresses and new laptops are required, the model supplied may change. This is because of new models being released and changes in the value of the Australian dollar. However, all laptops will be capable of fulfilling their primary task of education for students at Mount Clear College.

### **I have an old device - what can I do with it?**

The below third parties offer trade in pricing for old laptops and iPads. <https://www.tradeyourit.com.au/>  
<http://www.boomerangbuyback.com.au/index.aspx>

### **What if I can't afford to purchase a laptop?**

Please review the payment options on page 1, however you are welcome to contact our Business Manager to discuss individual circumstances and some families may also be eligible for further supports.

### **Do we have to buy a laptop for next year now?**

While we encourage families to lodge an order and begin to pay off their laptops with plenty of time for 2019, further offers may be released. This will be dependant on demand and the current discounted purchase price cannot be guaranteed.

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## **Can students put their own software/apps/songs/programs onto their laptop?**

Students may download other programs, apps, software and songs onto their devices as long as its use does not impact on the space available for educational resources and programs required for the program or break the Acceptable Use Agreement for the Internet and Digital Technologies.

## **Will students be using eTextbooks?**

Some subjects have the option of purchasing hard copy textbooks or eTextbooks. Parents should refer to the Booklist and contact Ballarat Books for more information. eTextbooks will be an advantage of the program. Not only are eTextbooks lighter to transport, they also offer a rich, immersive experience unavailable in traditional textbooks.

## **What about handwriting, isn't that important?**

Absolutely. Implementing a laptop program does not mean that students are not expected to write any more. As always, a balanced curriculum will be delivered. The main advantage will be that students will have complete access to their own device which allows for greater and more personalised learning.

## **What happens if I leave the school?**

Your laptop goes with you. The laptop is the property of your family and therefore will be taken with the student. Prior to leaving the school, the College's image will be removed from the device and the laptop will be returned to the student with Windows 10 Education. Families will be responsible for any outstanding finance agreements pertaining to the device.

## **What additional purchases might we face (eg. accessories)?**

If the device is purchased through the College, a cover/protective bag is included. If you are not purchasing through the College, you should purchase a cover/protective bag. Additional accessories that may be considered, at your own expense, are headphones, a USB stick and a mouse.

## **How long will it take to configure the device if I bring my own?**

Once our IT technicians have the device they will be able to image it and connect it to our network within two days. Please allow this time as the technicians will have a large number of devices to attend to at the beginning of the year. You should backup any data stored on your device before it is configured and don't forget to bring your charger with your device when providing it to our technicians.

## **What guidelines do you recommend for the usage of this device at home?**

Your interest and encouragement is more important than computer skills.

- Encourage the use of the laptop in open spaces within your home.
- Remind your child to charge the laptop overnight to ensure it is ready for school each day.
- Spend time with your child asking them to show you the places they use online. Make this a regular, ongoing conversation.
- Discuss strategies your child could use if they were upset by something sent or posted online. Telling you, not responding and leaving the site straightaway may be some first steps your child could take.
- Set time limits around laptop usage.
- Set in place agreed levels of personal information your child can share online. It is important private information such as their name, address, and images are kept just that – private.
- Encourage your child to think before they post information online. They should be aware that once information is posted online it can be difficult to retrieve it.
- Remind your child of the importance of keeping their password a secret. More often than not, accounts are hacked by someone known to the account holder using a password they have obtained from the account holder.
- Try not to use the removal of technology as punishment for online issues. International research shows the number one reason young people give for not reporting online issues, including cyber bullying, is because they believe they will lose access to their online technology and communities.
- Talk to the school if any issues arise.