

BYOD community information – Term 2 2020 – Whitebridge High School

Who has been using a device in 2020 at Whitebridge High School?

- So far, in 2020, before isolation and social distancing measures, some students as well as Year 7 and Year 8 Enrichment program students were bringing a device to school every day to support their learning. Year 8 Enrichment program students have been using OneNote to build a digital portfolio to demonstrate learning progressions across subject areas.
- As a school, we would like to thank the community for taking up this new opportunity with all its challenges by engaging in online learning, communicating positively with staff and supporting their children in bringing a device to school when we entered into Phase 1. Our next great opportunity presents as we move into full time face to face teaching with all our students bringing a device to school, every day.

Why use a device?

- BYOD or Bring Your Own Device refers to students bringing to school their own personal device for the purposes of learning. The importance of a one-to-one student to device ratio is well documented and shows improvements in literacy, research skills and engagement. Students involved in these programs become more self-directed, engaged and motivated while teachers shift their practice to student centered learning styles and explicit instruction.
- The main focus of BYOD is the shifting skill requirements for the workforce of the future. Much about the workforce our students will enter is unpredictable but some things are very clear. Coding as a skill, the shift from unskilled to skilled labour, the threats of automation/globalisation and the importance of collaboration and flexible employment all feature in their future. (Foundation for Young Australians, 2017). As a school, we are focussed on the continuation of learning with a device. Our journey so far:

Online learning while using a device

Online learning through a device, with one day teacher support

Face-to-face learning with their teacher while using a device everyday

What will it look like at Whitebridge High School?

- From 25th May 2020 (Week 5), Whitebridge High School students will be expected to bring a device to school each day. Students will return to learning spaces with their teacher leading learning activities that reinforce skills such as collaboration, communication, creativity and global connections.
- All students will need to sign a Department BYOD Charter and Student Agreement that meets our schools expectations.

Support at Whitebridge High School

- The school is receiving a whole network and connectivity upgrade including new WiFi ports to ensure connectivity throughout the entire school and will mean increased capabilities in whole school connection.
- All staff have access to a device or desktop in a learning space through which they will lead teaching and learning.
- Whitebridge High School currently has a staff Technology Group that assesses hardware requirements across the school, as well as shares effective teaching and learning methods that involve using a device with staff to help improve student engagement with technology and promote improved learning outcomes
- We have established a device loan system which operates through the Library. This can support students who have forgotten their device or those facing financial hardships. Negotiated loans, through the respective Deputy Principal, can be taken out for a day, week or term.

Whitebridge High School

Device Specifications

Types of devices

Laptops, Tablets or “Convertible” devices are all suitable for use at school. I pads are not preferred.

01



Wireless connectivity & operating system

Devices must support the 5GHz 802.11n/ac wireless network standard. We recommend the Latest versions of Windows (currently Windows 10) and macOS (currently Mojave), although we do support older versions.

Battery life, storage and RAM



02

Minimum 6 hours – enough to last the full school day.
Storage - Minimum 64 GB
RAM - minimum 4GB

03



Screen & keyboard

Minimum 8” Screen size
Keyboard must be of sufficient quality as to not cause fatigue and strain.

Important considerations

Build Quality/Durability - will the device survive school? Weight - is it light enough for your child to carry every day?
Device protection - if buying a new bag for the school year, check if the bag has a dedicated spot for a laptop (preferably padded)

04

Software - There is no need to buy the Microsoft Office suite, as the Department of Education supplies this software for free. There are also alternatives such as G Suite for Education (Google apps).

05

