Years 7-12, 2014
‘1 to 1 Laptop Learning Programme’ Information
Rationale and Introduction

“We encourage a love of learning through an innovative, dynamic and challenging curriculum. We encourage students to strive for personal excellence. We aim to provide a safe learning environment within contemporary specialist learning facilities.”

Good learning is dependent on good teaching – this occurs in a learning environment that provides the conditions and tools to support the nurturing of engaged, independent, creative, critical and collaborative learners. The College is committed to a community with access to contemporary tools. The ‘1 to 1 Programme’ is implemented from 2013 with students from years 7 to 12 provided with access to an Apple MacBook laptop computer for use during and outside school hours. Year 9 student are also provided with an iPad mini as a companion device.

The ‘1 to 1 Programme’ has been successful and evaluations by students, parents and teachers have spoken of the manner in which learning has been supported and enriched through the integration of mobile technologies. The ‘wireless’ access across the college extends the learning environment beyond the classroom and gives students the capability to collaborate; share experiences and self manage their learning in ways not previously possible.

‘1 to 1’ initiatives are increasingly seen as a necessary tool in the learning environment, preparing students to live in a world connected through technologies. In a ‘1 to 1 Programme’, access to a laptop and filtered Internet allows students to be self-directed and receive personalised instruction. Students use these technologies to seek feedback, research, problem-solve, collaborate on team inquiries and complete academic coursework where appropriate.

Goals of the ‘1 to 1 Laptop Learning Programme’

- Provide opportunities for students to engage in rich, relevant and authentic learning that is engaging and promotes excellence.
- Allow students to manage a laptop throughout the course of the day to personalise their learning.
- Learn appropriate strategies and skills to use technologies responsibly when working online and offline.
- Be discerning in recognising the validity of information provided online.
- Provide quick access to information to create products that demonstrate an understanding in all areas of the curriculum.
- Provide families with cost effective access to hardware, software and technical support optimised through the purchasing power of the College.

Equipment

Laptop

Although the College reviews available devices and monitors developments, we will continue to purchase the Apple MacBook Pros in 2014. MacBooks are supplied with a built in video camera, microphone, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth networking. MacBooks are compatible with the College printers, cameras and other peripherals and can be connected...
to home networks so that students can work seamlessly from home. The MacBooks are provided with a 3-year warranty and families sign an Acceptable Use Agreement for the responsible care of the MacBook and insurance purposes.

**iPad**

In Year 9 mobile learning technologies are utilised to augment learning across a variety of engaging learning environments. An iPad is provided to students, on loan for the year, in addition to the MacBook Pro. iPad Apps are provided by the College and students are expected to explore and review other resources they have used in support of their learning inquiries. We hear students say that the iPad is preferred as a tool as it assists them greatly when exploring the world beyond the College boundaries in our local and wider communities. They can record, collaborate, edit and share their experiences using social media or the College Learning Management System.

**ICT Infrastructure**

The College provides technical support underpinned by a high-speed wireless network. The College also provides servers and systems for the management of email, data storage, printers, copiers and scanners, online resources and secure Internet access whilst on campus managed by a dedicated IT Team located in the Information Resource Centre.

**Software**

Laptops are pre-loaded with a wide range of select software applications including Mail, Safari Web Browser, iTunes and the iLife and iWork software suites. The iLife suite includes iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, iWeb and Garageband applications. The iWork suite includes Pages (word processing and desk-top publishing), Keynote (presentation application) and Numbers (spreadsheet). All laptops and desktop computers are pre-loaded with the Microsoft Office suite.

The College licenses educational software for use across all year levels including the industry standard Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash, Dreamweaver, Acrobat Pro and In Design). Other specialist software applications are available for students studying subjects that require specialized software.

**Processes and Procedures**

**Backing Up Information**

The storage and backing up of academic work is critical and as such requires every student to responsibility manage the regular and secure back-up of information stored on their laptop. Students are taught how to manage this process.
Battery Life and Charging Laptops
Students are required to charge their laptop overnight and are issued with a power pack for this purpose. Depending on the usage and energy saving features employed, the battery life will be 6-8 hours. Experience suggests that, where laptops are fully charged the night before, they should have sufficient charge to last a school day. Students are not permitted to bring power packs to College but, in cases of emergency, have limited access to a small number of power packs that can be used by students to top-up a charge throughout the day.

The College operates information sessions to inform students and parents about power-management techniques and ‘getting the best’ out of their laptop. Interestingly, many students are already familiar with managing power to get the maximum benefit out of portable devices.

Care of the Laptop
The MacBook has been designed specifically with education in mind. The computer and screen are protected by a tough enclosure that allows the laptop to slip easily into a backpack. There are times when students will not be required to use their laptops and they will need to be stored in their lockers. Each student is provided ample storage with a personal locker that is secured using a combination padlock. Lockers are protected from the weather and are located in highly visible areas.

Laptop Usage and Student Wellbeing
Students are able to personalise the look and feel of their laptop in accordance with the College policy and procedures. Students are required to use their laptops responsibly and lawfully. For example, students are made aware of copyright in relation to music and videos and community standards for the access and storage of inappropriate material. The College supports parents with strategies to manage Internet access and file sharing whilst at home.

Students across the College are checked regularly for the safe and ergonomic use of computers and laptops including good posture, the position equipment and furniture. We also advise students to avoid use for prolonged periods.

Cyber safety is central to the College mission. Tools such as mobile phones, email and messaging systems, and computers have the potential to be misused. The College makes every effort to support our community (students, parents and staff) by raising awareness of inappropriate online behaviour and as such provides evening sessions for the community to attend on a regular basis.

The laptop weighs little more than two textbooks. To help minimise the weight of materials being carried by students, the College is moving towards e-books and online resources for a number of subjects. Some parents have asked about the impact of increased laptop use on handwriting. As it is important that students are able to both handwrite clearly and type effectively in the workplaces of tomorrow, they are required to do some handwriting. Laptops are not a replacement for handwriting but more a tool for creating, editing and revising text.
Parental Support

The ongoing success of our 1 to 1 Laptop Learning Programme requires the ongoing provision of training and information for students and parents in relation to the College policies and procedures and our emphasis on digital learning and cyber safety. The College makes every effort to support our community (students, parents and staff) by raising awareness of inappropriate online behaviour and as such provides evening sessions for the community to attend on a regular basis.

Costs

Presently, the most cost-effective way for students to access laptops is for the College to purchase the units, software, insurance and sundries (e.g. bags) at educational volume pricing. Educational volume pricing is significantly less than retail pricing and allows savings to be passed on to families. Families are required to contribute annually to the costs of the programme. Laptops are provided at the start of Years 7 and 10. Charges are dependent on the price of the device at the time purchases are made and families will be notified prior to the commencement of the first year of a three year programme.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>2013 charge</th>
<th>2014-5 charge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>668 *</td>
<td>$568 in 2014 &amp; $468 in 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>$468 in 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>Commence a new programme in 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>160 *</td>
<td>Programme subsidized under the Commonwealth Government’s National Secondary School Computer Fund</td>
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<td>Year 11</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>Year 12</td>
<td>160</td>
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The insurance excess on MacBooks is $100 for years 8, 9, 11 and 12. A $200 excess accompanies the introduction of MacBook Pros for years 7 and 10 in 2013-4.

Charges differ by year level due to the Commonwealth Government funding programme that offsets the cost of computer access for students in Years 9 to 12. This government policy will not be extended beyond the current funding commitment.
The 1 to 1 Laptop Learning Programme provides access to the laptops at school and home throughout the year, financing costs, insurance (with excess), a case, Microsoft Office and other licensed software. Provision of a laptop is dependent on the signing of a Laptop Acceptable Use Agreement that details students’ rights and responsibilities under the programme.

Provided tuition fees and laptop charges have been paid for the duration of the programme, ownership of the device will be transferred to the family at no additional cost at the end of the programme.