Castlemaine Secondary College

BYOD or Bring Your Own Device Computer Program

In 2014 Castlemaine Secondary College commenced the BYOD program, connecting Student owned computers to the Department network, as a natural flow on from the One to One scheme.

Connection of student owned computers is made on the understanding and agreement of the Education Department's Acceptable Use Policy as well as a signed agreement with the College. This does not include of phones, iPods or other non-productive devices. Devices are connected on a "Best Effort" basis, and some devices may not be suitable for connection to our network. If this means, for example, that an Apple update stops a device from being able to connect to the network as it has done in the past, then we cannot accept responsibility for this. It does mean that there are minimum standards such as Windows Vista or later and Wireless G or N capabilities to be met in order to have the best likelihood of connecting. It also means that there are some devices that will not be connected. Other constraints are discussed below.

Options for BYOD

Laptops may be purchased from any computer supplier. Locally owned and operated Top End Technology are able to supply laptops, and our Technicians have talked to them about suitable equipment. Details of these recommended machines can be found on our website.

The school has a range of recommended devices with supplier, Learning With Technology (LWT). LWT will supply a range of laptops that have been chosen by the school technicians as most suitable and in a range of prices that offer finance options. Information about these notebooks can be found on our website, together with a direct link to an online portal with pricing and purchasing information. Laptops purchased through LWT have the added bonus of warranty claims being processed onsite at Castlemaine Secondary College with the assistance of school technicians if the extended warranty is purchased.

We highly recommended that an extended warranty is purchased as well as accidental damage or loss insurance.

Our school technicians will do their best to connect all devices to the network. If minimum standards are met, we are happy to reimagine the laptop with the Department image including Microsoft Office and Photoshop, as well as a collection of other useful software. Licensing of the installed DEET operating system and software is valid while the student is still at the College, but will expire after 90 days once the laptop has left our network.

Extended Warranty as well as Loss and Damage Insurance are highly recommended when purchasing any new computer.

What are the minimum specifications?

Windows Vista is the earliest operating system supported by the School network. Windows 7 is recommended as well as Windows 8.1. Wireless G capability is a minimum requirement for connection, however for best results Wireless N capability is recommended. Macintosh OS 10.6 and later can be connected.

How do we get them connected to the network?

At the start of the year, Mentor teachers will be given a letter for each of their students with a unique username and password for their network connection and students will be able to log in and connect.
What year level is an optimal time to begin using a BYOD?

Computers have become an integral part to student learning throughout Secondary level from Year 7 onwards. In order to take advantage of the best possible options, all students are encouraged to bring their laptop to school on a daily basis.

Where can devices be purchased?

Laptops may be purchased anywhere, though purchasing through Learning With Technology has advantages of support and warranty being handled by the School Technicians. Top End Technology has a technician to assist with hardware faults and failures and are a local company. Both Top End Technology and Learning With Technology school selected models will be compatible with all school resources. Many other stores and online suppliers can supply suitable laptops. The option of choosing your favourite computer supplier is yours.

Should the BYOD be a Netbook, Notebook or other?

A full breakdown of all options available on the wider market are available on the College website, the pros and cons of the recommended computers are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Pro</th>
<th>Con</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notebook</td>
<td>Larger screen; full size keyboard; optical drive; more powerful processor; generally more robust; 3D graphics; better multimedia capability; generally more memory</td>
<td>Larger footprint; heavier; shorter battery life; shorter battery run time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netbook</td>
<td>Longer battery life; small footprint; light</td>
<td>Smaller screen; no cdrom; no 3D graphics; low end video not suitable for graphic editing; smaller keyboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macbook</td>
<td>Best at Graphics and Multimedia; robust and durable. Note: network connection requires IOS 10.6 or later</td>
<td>Not good with productive software; Apple updates may cause unreliability in connectivity; shorter battery life; heavy; less tech support available; less network resources available than Windows machines; not always upgradable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows tablet</td>
<td>Long battery life; light; can install Office and other productive programs; recommended alternative to notebook or netbook for most streams</td>
<td>Not suitable for graphics editing or other processor intensive applications; not as much internal storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPad</td>
<td>Long battery life; light</td>
<td>Security may not be suitable for connection to network; unable to access school network resources or printers; not much internal storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Android table or other device</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not suitable for connection to secure network; very limited productivity software available</td>
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Insurance considerations

Insurance is highly recommended, as damage or loss will produce a situation where the lost or damaged computer will still need its financial obligations met while a new machine is required to replace the original, or the student becomes disadvantaged. Leasing companies will rarely require insurance, but will not release the financial burden for a damaged or lost machine. Insurance may or may not be available as an inclusion to the lease agreement, depending on the finance company involved.
What about warranty?

Extended warranty is highly recommended as an add on. Many laptops come with standard one year warranty, and some come with two years warranty. It is a good idea to purchase extra warranty to cover at least the life of the laptop, generally 3 or 4 years. Learning With Technology provide onsite warranty that can be handled by the school technicians. Some warranties require return to base, which can be costly if it is determined at the supplier’s discretion to be a damage issue. Broken screens are not generally considered a warranty item, nor are damaged keyboards. These can be covered by accidental damage insurance, also available from LWT. It is important to understand exactly what is covered and what is not.