

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM AT BUCKLEY PARK COLLEGE

For many years now, the use of computers and other devices has been an integral part of learning at Buckley Park College. We continue to see the use of technology in the classroom to be not only central to student learning, but also essential to preparing them for life, leisure and work in the modern world.

Since the beginning of 2014, the school community has been highly supportive of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) approach we chose to ensure that all students have access to technology for their learning. This approach allows students and parents the flexibility to decide which device is most suitable for their needs and budget. All Buckley Park College students are required to participate in the BYOD program.

About BYOD @ BPC

1. Students and parents make a decision about which device might best suit their needs and budget from the 'Suitable Devices List' (see below).
2. Purchase the device. It is strongly recommended that parents consider add-ons like cases, carry bags, accidental damage insurance and extended warranties.
3. Our IT technicians connect the student device to the school WiFi network in the first week of 2016.

Suitable Devices



Windows notebook (from \$750)

OS: Windows 7 or later



Microsoft Surface (from \$699)

Surface 3 or 4
Surface Book



Apple iPad (from \$569)

iPad Air
iPad Air 2
iPad Pro
(not iPad Mini)
OS: iOS 7 or later



Apple Mac notebook (from \$1549)

Macbook Air 13"
Macbook Pro
(not Macbook)
OS: Mountain Lion (10.8) or later

Making a Decision about BYOD

BYOD is a great opportunity for all students to choose a device that suits their learning needs best. In 2015 the device profile for Years 7-10 (over 600 students) was:

	% of Students (7-10)	Advantages	Disadvantages
Windows Notebooks	45%	Familiarity, range of software	May be heavy, quality varies
Apple Macbooks	30%	Great built-in software	Unfamiliar for Windows users
Apple iPad	20%	Good battery life, easy to use	No keyboard, complex task apps
Microsoft Surface	5%	Familiar for Windows users	Lacks benefits of a notebook

Perhaps the most important factor is battery life. The selected device *must* be able to last the entire school day (6 hours) without needing to be charged. Charging is not permitted at school, and students should not bring chargers with them.

About Google @ BPC



The school has a Google Apps for Education account which benefits students in the following way:

- All students have a school 'Gmail' account
- Students have unlimited cloud storage on Google Drive
- Google Docs, Sheets and Slides provide free access to cloud-based productivity software (that is similar to Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint)
- Central to student-teacher communications is Google Classroom

About Compass @ BPC



The school uses Compass to communicate day-to-day information between parents, students and teachers. These communications are particularly focused on attendance, assessment and reporting. Important school-wide messages are distributed via Compass.

Students each have an individual Compass account. Each family also has a Compass account, for the exclusive use of parents and guardians. It is important that these accounts are kept secure. Usernames and passwords are distributed at the beginning of the school year.

Software and Anti-Virus



A variety of useful software is available via the EduSTAR Catalogue. As this is for school users only, a username and password is required. This information will be provided to students in early 2016.

Please direct any enquiries to:

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