Laptop and Technology Updates

For several years the College has allowed students to bring their own laptops provided they meet minimum standards. This has resulted in a duplication of services to make sure all brands of laptops could function effectively on campus. When changes to operating systems occur from manufacturers sometimes services are affected for some time until integrations from other software providers catch up which can cause disruptions and security issues. As well as this, teachers may have had to modify their lessons to suit the variety of laptop operating systems.

Recent research suggests that there are many educational advantages to using laptops that have touch screens. Touch screen laptops offer the opportunity to create content in a new way that is more intuitive and when combined with a stylus, users can get even finer precision and can write or draw naturally on the screen.

Those students who have difficulty with their hands for typing or using a mouse find it easier and quicker to interact with the computer by touching the screen.

Touch screen laptops can also utilise the handwriting conversion tools to activate the many benefits to learning via handwriting over typing.

Unfortunately, iPads and chrome books are not capable of running some of the software used at College and are therefore not suitable to be used as Primary Devices. Likewise, Apple laptops do not currently have touch screen capabilities and are therefore not recommended for purchase.

From September 1, 2021, Apple laptops will no longer be available for purchase through Datacom and their ordering site, however, Apple laptops will be able to be serviced/repaired through Datacom onsite at College until the end of 2024. This date will allow any recently purchased laptops to see out warranty periods under current conditions.

The new minimum specifications for PRIMARY DEVICES:

- A laptop (NOT chromebooks, iPad or similar) with touch capabilities.
- i5 processor or M5 or Ryzen 5
- 8 GB RAM
- 256GB of storage
- Sufficient battery life to last a school day
- Windows 10 or MAC OS 10.14 (latest version the better)

Basically, students will require a laptop capable of running the Adobe software suite: the most hardware hungry software currently used at College.