



## **BYOT**

### **What is a Suitable Device/Laptop?**

After much discussion, the staff at Mount Alvernia has decided that the primary device that a student needs to work effectively across all her subjects is a laptop-based device that has a keyboard. Various pieces of software that may be used at college require a certain level of hardware to run them so it is recommended that any laptop that you purchase should have these minimum specifications:

i5 processor

4 Gb of RAM

Recommended Hard Drives

256 Gb SSD (solid state drive)

or 128 Gb SSD + External Hard Drive

As a guide, a typical laptop, purchased through Datacom with their support package, costed around \$1500.

Other devices such as tablets or phones can also be used, but only as supplementary devices. The College allows a student to connect up to three devices to the wi-fi network.

### **What Software do I Need?**

Last time I talked about suitable laptops: now we need to get some software! Students are able to download a version of Microsoft Office/365 through a College-branded portal: from the portal you can download the program and the activation code to make it work. It is extremely important to keep a copy of the code (you can email to your school account) in case you have to wipe your laptop and reinstall the software. At the time of writing this, students get one download for free, but if you lose your code it will cost you to retrieve it.

The College also can supply a free copy of Sophos Anti-Virus and Malware bytes.

If your daughter studies Music she may need to get the College to help install Sibelius or, if she studies IT or Art, she may need to get some Adobe software loaded. These programs are free at the moment ,but this may change as vendors change their license requirements or software is updated. Many other resources are web-based.

If you purchase your laptop through Datacom, some of the software will be preloaded for you although you will still need to obtain activation codes for them.

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## **Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them**

One of the problems we had this year was when students failed to record their software activation codes. Generally this is not a problem but, if something happens to the laptop and software has to be installed, we cannot do anything to help and you will need to spend some time and money to recover the numbers. The easiest way to do this is to email the codes to your daughter's college email account. This allows the IT staff to help your daughter reinstall software easily.

Viruses have proven to be a problem for some students. Private subscriptions to anti-virus programs are not always maintained and some are not properly installed. Our wireless system now checks all machines to make sure that an anti-virus program is running before it will initially allow you access to the wi-fi network. The College can supply students with an anti-virus program.

Water/liquid damage is the most prevalent type of damage occurring to laptops as girls are keeping water bottles and the like next to their laptops. It may be prudent to separate these two things in some way.

A couple of students have learnt the value of having accident insurance this year: one girl damaged her laptop twice in a month. You still have to pay an excess but it is still cheaper than a new laptop.

One of the questions we will ask your daughter when she brings in a malfunctioning laptop is, "Where did you buy your laptop?" You will be surprised by the number of girls who cannot answer this question, so it is very important to talk to your daughter about this and involve her in the technology set-up.

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