



## Laptop and Technology Updates September 2022

For several years the College has allowed students to bring their own laptops provided they meet minimum standards. Reflecting on the educational research and the experiences of *Learning From Home* both nationally and globally, it has become apparent that there are significant educational advantages to using laptops that have touch screen capabilities. Touch screen laptops offer the opportunity to create content in a way that is more intuitive and when combined with a stylus, learners can get even finer precision and can write, annotate, or draw naturally on the screen. For students who have difficulty typing or using a mouse they will find it 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.

There is significant research and commentary highlighting the impact that writing and annotating (using a stylus) has on the quality of learning and retention of information that occurs for learners. A couple of articles are linked below for your interest below.

[Pilot Pens: The Amazing Benefits Of Handwriting \(forbes.com\)](https://www.forbes.com)

[Should your students be using stylus pens? | The Educator K/12 \(theeducatoronline.com\)](https://www.theeducatoronline.com)

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. Whilst we recognise that the Apple devices are a preferred personal operating system for many of our young people, Apple laptops do not currently have touch screen capabilities and are therefore not recommended for purchase as an educational device.

From September 1, 2021, Apple laptops will no longer be available for purchase through Datacom and their ordering site, however, current Apple laptops will be allowed to see out warranty periods under current conditions until the end of 2024 at the latest. Unfortunately, due to staffing changes and accreditation, Datacom will no longer be able to service/repair Apple or older devices through onsite services at College.

As a College we are committed to offering our families the most efficient IT client support and care. As you might appreciate, the dual platform offering has resulted in a duplication of services to ensure all brands of laptops are functioning effectively on campus. When changes to operating systems occur, services are affected for some time until integrations from other software providers catch up. At times, this has caused service disruptions and security issues. We are also conscious, that our teachers have often had to modify their lessons to suit the variety of laptop operating systems.

Our aim is to improve and streamline the learning enabling technologies for all our students and teachers moving forward.



It is anticipated that with a renewed approach to supporting a single windows platform the best possible learning experiences and integration of software applications will be now equitable and accessible to all.

**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

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