

MHJC ICT BYOD FAQ

What are the advantages of BYOD?

- Anytime, anywhere access to class resources and support through Google Apps, MHJC Online and other cloud based applications.
- The ability to create a personal digital portfolio of their own work using cloud based applications such as TinkerCAD and LucidChart

How does BYOD change education?

- Increased engagement in the learning process as students become more active participants in their learning.
- Greater ability to communicate with teachers and other students through access to student email.
- The ability to draft, redraft and publish work.
- Greater independence, collaboration with peers and personalised learning.
- Improved critical thinking and development of multi-literacies.
- Greater integration of technology and the use of digital learning tools that complement existing teaching programmes.
- Improved innovation as the use of devices in the classroom evolves.

What will happen to the school's existing Sunrays? Will the students still be using cards next year?

The school's existing fleet of Sunrays will be slowly decommissioned over 2017. Student cards will eventually be not needed for access to ICT resources.

What device should I buy for my child? Why did you not mandate one device that all students would have?

We are brand agnostic and we recommend that all things being equal, parents purchase the most affordable device available. Our recommendations are listed in the Recommended Devices List available from the website.

In addition, some of our students already have devices which they and their parents may wish to use. There is not one single device that is best for all students at all levels covering all subjects and activities – whatever we may have chosen would not be best suited for all students.

Why can't students use a phone?

Phones are well suited for communication tasks such as Whatsapp, voice calling and texting but ill-suited to heavy text, mind-mapping and spreadsheet data entry.

Why have you chosen all year levels for BYOD? Why can't only Year 9s and 10s be enrolled into that program?

We have discovered that many of our students have BYOD or BYOD-like programs in their previous schools. This is a natural continuation for them and they can continue using their device as they progress through the year levels in MHJC.

I'm concerned about cost. Shouldn't devices be provided by the school?

While the school could maintain a 2:1 ratio, it does not have the resources for a 1:1 student:computer ratio.

Buying a device for your child is a major decision and a significant outlay. A good quality device should last Years 7 to 10 at school and so this cost is spread over 4 years.

All students need their own device rather than the use of a shared device. This is because MHJC is integrating device use into many aspects of teaching and learning and your investment in a device will enhance learning outcomes for her and all students.

Wouldn't it be easier for teachers/students if there was only one device? Won't it be too hard/impossible for teachers to make use of such a variety of different machines? If they had one machine, they would be able to teach the students how to use it more efficiently.

It would certainly be easier for most teachers. However, one device will not be able to accommodate all learning areas. It also might be too restrictive or demanding for some students and families.

We are also of the view that the specific device is not the issue at hand; it is the task of educating that is more important. If we are writing an essay or analysing a pattern trend, the focus is on the content and not the word processor or spreadsheet program.

How safe will my child's device be? How will security be addressed during P.E. for example, ie will any lockers be provided?

Lockers will be provided on a demand basis. Parents will be able to reserve a locker at the start of the year at a nominal fee.

Will the school repair the device if it breaks? Does the school provide loan machines for students whose devices are broken?

The school does not have any authorized personnel who can repair devices. It is advantageous to purchase the device from a provider who can offer advice, service, loan out machines, repair and lease options to go along with the purchase of the device.

May the students use 3G/4G in addition to WiFi?

The Student Cybersafety User Agreement requires students only to use the school provided wifi. This is a safe and monitored network.

Which is better a laptop or a tablet?

Laptops are larger, less portable, have lower battery life, built-in keyboard, but have a full operating system and more specialised functionality for advanced activities.

Tablets are more portable, have a longer battery life and are very good for communication and simple tasks. They are considered to be a 'personal consumer device' for consuming the product of other people's work, such as information on the internet. They are not best suited to one's own work productivity, especially tasks requiring multiple screens, high processing power, memory or full applications.

Touch screen laptops with tablet mode provide the best of both worlds regarding functionality, but are the most expensive option.

Do I need to purchase Microsoft Office software for my child?

No. We use Google Apps and LibreOffice exclusively in MHJC.