

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

AT EDGEWATER COLLEGE IN 2018



BACKGROUND

The College recognizes the importance of digital technology within student learning and has invested in providing the best possible digital experience for the students. Staff utilise a range of digital technologies within the classroom where it is appropriate, however the golden rule is that we use the appropriate tool for the task, whatever that might be – pen and paper or digital device. Sometimes a pen and paper is the best technology for a specific task. If we are going to continue to educate our students to be contributing members of society in an increasingly online world then we must assist them to become competent digital citizens with the ability to collaborate, create and communicate through digital media.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Every class has access to school provided computers for you when necessary. Whilst Edgewater College is a BYOD school we also recognize the additional cost that this may place on families. Therefore if a student has a device and wishes to use it at school then they are welcome to bring it to school. The device can be stored safely during break times and when the students attends PE lesson. Alternatively, a student may wish to use the school facilities whilst in Year 9 and 10, then bring their own device once they reach the senior years at the College.

BYOD creates new opportunities for learning and recent studies have shown that there is increased engagement of learners when using digital devices as well as improved learning outcomes. BYOD also provides the opportunity for a more personalized education for each student.

Advantages of BYOD include:

- Access to classroom resources and support anywhere at any time through the internet.
- The ability to create a personal portfolio of work which can be viewed by caregivers.
- Greater access to information, rich media and international and local experts.
- Opportunities to collaborate with peers locally and in wider contexts.
- Greater opportunities for independent learning and personalized learning.
- Compliments and builds upon our current classroom-based learning programmes.

THE DEVICE

A one to one digital device allows students to create and edit documents efficiently. Students do not need a really powerful machine, nor do they need a large hard drive as they can save and share their work in the cloud. The minimum specifications for our BYOD devices are:

- A large enough screen to create and edit documents (10" minimum)
- At least 6 hours battery life from one battery charge
- Able to run a web browser that will allow it to access Office 365 and Google Apps for Education
- Software that allows for word-processing, presentations, spreadsheets, image and video/audio editing
- Has antivirus on it
- Is lightweight but strong enough to handle daily use.
- Is in a protective carry case.

Smartphones or iPads may be appropriate at times (e.g. for taking video/photos) but they are of limited use in a Secondary School classroom. Therefore, they are not acceptable devices for our BYOD programme.