Minimum and recommended standards for computer that are part of the student laptop program.

BYOD

This device must meet specific conditions in order to connect to the College wireless network and be compatible with elearning and ebooks used by subject teachers. The device also needs to be **portable, lightweight** and have appropriate battery life. Six hours of battery life is minimum.

Minimum requirements	Recommended requirements
Operating System – Windows 8.1 or later (No Windows RT or non-officially released versions of Windows)	Operating System – Windows 8.1 or later (No Windows RT or non-officially released versions of Windows)
Screen size – 10" minimum	Screen size – 11" or greater
Keyboard – physical keyboard (see note 3)	Keyboard – physical keyboard (see note 3)
Hard Drive – 128Gig Solid State (see note 2)	Hard Drive – 256Gig or greater Solid State(see note 2)
Wireless – GN or AC wireless	Wireless – AC wireless
	4 Gig or RAM or greater
	Intel based 'i' series processor (i3, i5, i7)

APPLE Mac Minimum requirements

Apple computers are NOT recommended. For students who prefer to use an Apple Macbook computer, this can only be done if the following circumstances are met:-
The Macbook is to be running OS X Mavericks (or later).
The Macbook MUST be running full "Bootcamp" with Windows 8.1 or later (Not a non-officially released versions of Windows such as "beta" versions). "Parallels", VMware or other virtualised versions of Windows are NOT acceptable.
The Windows Operating System must have the Apple drivers fully installed and be fully Windows and Apple patched.
The Hard Drive must be 256Gig or greater Solid State(see note 2) with a minimum of 128Gig allocated to the Windows partition.
The Windows Operating System must be used during all general classes.
The College is unable to provide any support in relation to use or configuration of Mac OS.
The Macbook must still meet the requirements as detailed above for Windows devices

Notes

1. There is no requirement for students to purchase Microsoft Office as this will be provided by the College.
2. Solid State hard drives are generally smaller in capacity but work much faster and are more reliable whilst using less battery power.
3. Experience to date has shown that students struggle with the use and maintenance of Bluetooth keyboards. These are not recommended.
4. Keyboards with a physical connection (usb or other) are more reliable and will provide your child with a better all-round experience.
5. Student locker space is limited therefore a lightweight, portable device is recommended.

Frequently Asked Questions?

Why aren't all tablet computers suitable for student use at the College?

Students need to be able to work together in a collaborative environment and to access school resources. Different devices and different operating systems makes collaboration and sharing of ideas difficult.

Some projects require students to use specific software and this software is not always compatible with every computer. Many of the eBooks are also not compatible with all computers and tablet devices.

If students use an IPad, then the student will not be able to download or upload content to our Portal, (Moodle). The Ipad will also not run a number of software programs we use throughout the College.

Ipads without attached keypads are not conducive to students typing relatively large amounts of text.

Why do we have to meet minimum standards for a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?

Minimum standard allow for a consistent environment between students and ensures that school supplied software will work. Other areas include – the operating system must be able to run core educational software for several years. This includes eBooks, subject based applications and Microsoft Office (supplied by the College).

The screen size needs to be able to work with a number of applications. A number of devices available on the market are too small so a minimum requirement has been set.

A physical keyboard is required to assist with accurate typing skills and to alleviate ergonomic issues associated with onscreen keyboards.

The hard drive must be able to have sufficient space to allow the installation of applications and the storage of work. Solid State hard drives (SSD) are recommended as they allow computers to work much faster, whilst also improving battery life. These are also more reliable in a portable device.

What software is included in the package? Are updates included?

Initially the College will be supplying Microsoft Office Professional, however, we will also be negotiating with other software providers for the provision of additional software applications in the future.