Pupil IT Requirements

We require all pupils in Form 1 and above to have a suitable personal device for use in class and study time. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will use an iPad provided by the school during class time. Years 1 and 2 will use classroom devices as required.

It is preferable that pupils have a laptop/MacBook to allow for the requirements of more complex tasks. As more schoolwork is being completed using online methods, pupils may more frequently require the use of a stylus to write. A suitable hybrid laptop or a tablet with detachable keyboard may be more appropriate.

What to Buy?

A Windows machine with Windows 10 or 11 home is probably the most economical route. Older versions of Windows are not suitable, not least because they are not secure. The school currently use a mix of Dell and HP products. Terms such as *hybrid, 2-in-1 or convertible* indicate that the device can be switched between tablet mode and conventional laptop.

The minimum specification we recommend is 8GB of RAM and hard disk (solid state - SSD) of at least 128GB. A screen size of 14 or 15" is ideal but do watch out for the overall weight of the device as your child will be carrying it with them all day.
Apple devices tend to be expensive but will also work well. The Microsoft 365 apps are available from the Apple App Store. We also recommend that you install the Google Chrome web browser as it is generally more reliable for schoolwork than Safari.

Chromebooks have proven to be less than ideal, and we do not recommend them.

Things to note

- Your child may install the Microsoft 365 Suite on the device via their school account so do not purchase Office separately.

- Windows S-Mode can be problematic as it will prevent installation of the security certificate required for our Wi-Fi. It is possible to take the device out of S-Mode but if you are struggling, our IT Services team can assist.

- **DO NOT INSTALL A VPN**
  All network traffic at school is monitored for the safety and security of both the school and the individuals. As a VPN hides activities, the presence of one on any device will prevent connection to the school Wi-Fi network.

- Please remind your child that it is his/her responsibility to ensure that their device is suitably charged and connected to the school Wi-Fi for use in every class

Protection:
Be it laptop or tablet, any device brought to school needs to **be protected from accidental damage**. A laptop should be in a suitable carrying case, and a tablet should have a decent hard case with well-fitting screen cover.
Pupils' possessions are owned by parents and not by the school. You must make sure that any devices brought to school are covered by insurance for accidental damage, as well as for any other risks, and that a replacement can be sourced rapidly if required.
Please do not install a VPN on your device. Your device will not successfully connect to the school's Wi-Fi with a VPN installed.
If you wish to remain the main admin of your child's device, you may wish to create a second admin account for the school IT department to use should they need to assist in any installations.

Backup and Antivirus Software:
Please ensure that a suitable antivirus product is installed on all devices and that any personal documents and media are backed up when required. On Windows laptops, the built in antivirus product (Windows Defender) is now more than adequate if you prefer.
Should your child have issues accessing our Wi-Fi network or other services because of their antivirus product, they can get assistance from the IT Services Team.