

30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents / Caregivers

### **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Elim Christian College 2018**

Devices are now a routine part of our teaching methodology and are integral to learning. The intention is that each student have their own device.

We are a school that operates as a 'blended learning' environment. The Ministry of Education describes blended learning as 'a combination of traditional and e-learning practices' and it defines e-learning as 'learning and teaching that is facilitated by or supported through the appropriate use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)'. We believe that the use of devices further develops our students' 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies of digital literacy, communication, and working collaboratively to problem solve and think creatively. We are also committed to create an environment in which digital technology and critical thinking work together to expand and deepen the learning experience.

#### **Appropriate devices**

The requirements for each year level are different so we recommend the following:

**Years 3-6** require an iPad to support their learning.

#### **Guidelines for buying an iPad:**

- minimum iPad Air 2, iPad mini 4, or newer, Wi-Fi only, preferably 32Gb storage or greater.
- a robust, portfolio style case. One that wraps around the iPad and does not rely on a magnet only to keep the 'lid' closed.

**Years 7-10:** All students will need to bring their own device of choice to support their learning. Students who have been using an iPad in the previous year are able to continue with this device. If the device needs replacing, we recommend purchasing either a Chromebook or laptop/hybrid device with the following minimum specifications:

- 4GB+ RAM and 32GB+ Storage
- Physical keyboard (integrated into case for iPads)
- 5 hours+ battery life (with constant usage)

Chromebooks are recommended for these year levels as they are robust, cost-effective, run Android apps, and their batteries endure well. Higher-end models also integrate tablet/touchscreen features, but these are not a requirement.

**Years 11-13:** Students require a laptop/tablet/hybrid device to support their learning. At a minimum, devices must meet the technical specifications explained below. Students who have another device from previous years may find it still works for their particular programme of study. Please note that some subjects in the NCEA curriculum, e.g. music, photography and design, may require specialised tasks and a higher level of computing power from a device that will not be available in lower priced models. *Students and parents are encouraged to contact subject teachers if they need more clarification about these specialised tasks.*

#### **What are the technical specifications of a laptop used by a Year 11 - 13 student?**

- It must have a guaranteed battery life of 5 hours+ from one charge
- Laptops need to either have Windows 8 or higher, or Mac OS X 10.9 or higher
- i5 processor, SSD (solid state drives) and 4GB+ of RAM ensure faster operation

- The device must have a physical keyboard
- A protective casing is recommended for all devices
- Antivirus software

**Important note:**

- Devices which use inking e.g. Surface Pros are very useful but come at a premium price.
- We do not support the use of mobile phones as a primary learning tool.

**Who is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of students' devices?**

PB Technologies and Cyclone computers have created purchasing portals specific to Elim Christian College's BYOD programme. You can access these portals at the following URL's:

- Cyclone Computers: <https://www.cyclone.co.nz/byod/> (select Elim Christian College and use the login "elimchristiancollege" and password "159botany")
- PB Technologies: <http://www.pbtech.co.nz/edu/elim> (create an account and use the membership key BYOD123)

Many retailers offer purchase options that can lessen the blow of outlaying large amounts of money for a device. An extensive warranty and comprehensive insurance are highly recommended for all student devices.

Although staff can assist students with troubleshooting devices that are not working properly during the school day, the maintenance of devices remains the sole responsibility of the student and the student's parents or caregivers.

We provide lockable charging lockers for students to store and charge devices safely while at school. Students must provide their own padlock and key or combination lock. Students are also entitled to Microsoft Office, free of charge, which can be loaded onto their laptops or hybrid devices.

**More questions?**

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to contact the people listed below by email if they have more questions about the BYOD programme at Elim Christian College.

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Yours sincerely



**Murray Burton MNZM**  
**Principal**