Elim Christian College

10 December 2019

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Elim Christian College 2020

Devices are a routine part of our teaching methodology and are integral to learning. We strongly encourage each student to have their own device and our wifi environment enables this. Our infrastructure, its installation and operation is Ministry of Education approved and we take all reasonable steps to ensure it is used and maintained appropriately.

We operate a 'blended learning'; environment featuring a combination of traditional and e-learning practices. Our recent internal survey has indicated that especially for students in years 1-8, devices do not feature for more than 40% of the time in our daily learning activities. This is activity-dependent but we have a serious commitment to provide a healthy well-informed digital environment in which learning and teaching is supported through the appropriate use of information and communication technologies. We believe that the use of devices further develops our students' 21st 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 recommendation for each year level are different:

Years 3-6: all students strongly encouraged to have an iPad to support their learning.

Guidelines for buying an iPad:
● minimum iPad Air 3, iPad Mini 5, or newer, WiFi only, preferably 64Gb storage or greater.
● a robust, portfolio style case that wraps around the iPad and does not rely on a magnet only to keep the 'lid' closed.

Years 7-10: All students strongly encouraged to bring their own device of choice to support their learning. Students who have been using an iPad in the previous year may 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 efficient typing and developing keyboard skills (integrated into case for iPads)
● 5 hours+ battery life (with constant usage)
● touch screen portable devices must have a physically attached keyboard

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

Years 11- 13: A laptop device is strongly recommended to support their learning. At a minimum, devices should 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 may have 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.*

Looking Ahead in Y11-13: NZQA is increasing each year the number of NCEA external exams being offered online only. We are preparing for this and students should prepare by having a suitable laptop.

What are the technical specifications of a laptop used by a Year 11 - 13 student?
● Guaranteed battery life of 5 hours+ from one charge
● Windows 10 or higher; Mac OS X 10.14 or higher
● i5+ processor, SSD (Solid State Drive) and 4GB+ of RAM ensure faster operation
● Touch screen portable devices must have a physically attached keyboard
● A protective casing and antivirus is recommended for all devices

Important note:
- We do not support the use of mobile phones within our classes as a learning tool. Mobile phones are not suitable learning tools and we discourage the use of them at school. Students using mobile phones during school hours without express permission of a teacher will have them confiscated.

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 URLs:

● 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.

At Botany Campus and Golflands Middle Years lockable charging lockers are provided for students to store and charge devices safely while at school. Students must provide their own padlock and key or combination lock.

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. Please contact Steven Woollaston (steven.woollaston@elim.school.nz), our IT Services Team Leader if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Murray Burton MNZM
Principal