1st November 2016

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) at Elim Christian College in 2017

Over the past couple of years we have progressively begun to use devices as learning tools. Our network and internet access has been upgraded and is now able to support us well in our teaching and learning with devices. The intention is that each student have their own device.

Why BYOD?
We are striving to progressively embrace and develop a highly effective '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 develop 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.

How is the BYOD programme being implemented?
The implementation of the BYOD programme will be slightly different for each year level. We encourage you to read the requirements for **all year levels**, but please take time to read the requirements for **your child's** year level since it may be unique.

<u>Years 3 - 8</u> **will need** to bring an iPad to support their learning.

- **Guidelines for buying an iPad**. If you find yourself in the position of needing to purchase an iPad for school, the following are recommended:
  - minimum iPad Air or iPad mini 3 or newer, wifi only, preferably 32Gb or greater.
  - Robust, portfolio style case. One that wraps around the iPad and does not rely on a magnet only to keep the 'lid' closed.

NOTE: If your child currently has a lower spec iPad it will be fine for 2017. However, it may be advantageous to complete a reformat via iTunes of the iPad on a laptop/desktop if you find it is running too slowly. DON'T FORGET TO BACK IT UP FIRST!

<u>Years 9 and 10</u>: <u>All</u> Y9 students will need to bring their own device of choice to support their learning. Y8 students who have been part of Elim's Y7/8 programme are encouraged to bring the device they have been using in 2016 if it meets the technical specifications explained below. Year 10 students may use an iPad/laptop or hybrid device that they used in Y9. An iPad will be sufficient but if a device needs replacing, it may be worthwhile buying a laptop/hybrid device to last until year 13.

<u>Year 11 – 13</u>: Students **will need** a laptop/tablet/hybrid device to support their learning. At a minimum, devices have to meet the technical specifications explained below. 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*.

Mobile Phones: **We do not support the use of mobile phones as a primary learning tool** and students from year 9-13 are advised **not to invest** in this technology as their learning device.

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

- It has to have a guaranteed battery life of 5 hours or more from one charge.
- Laptops need to either have Windows 7 or higher, or Mac OS X 10.9 or higher.
- The device needs to have a physical keyboard.
- A protective casing is recommended for all devices (*if* a protective casing is available).
- Antivirus software (if available for the operating system of the device).

Important note: The Microsoft Surface RT tablet and Chromebooks are not compatible for what we are doing here at Elim Christian College.

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

Unfortunately Elim Christian College is not in a position to negotiate bulk purchasing or leasing with any commercial vendors. However 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 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 do 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.

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Campus Mark Mack: *IT Services team*   mark.mack@elim.school.nz

Yours sincerely

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