20 October 2023

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Elim Christian College 2024

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 that the wifi is used and maintained appropriately.

We operate a 'blended learning' environment featuring a range of pedagogies and eLearning practices. For students in years 4-6 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 4-6: all students strongly encouraged to have an iPad to support their learning. We do not encourage other devices; only iPads.

Guidelines for buying an iPad:
- minimum 9th gen iPad, or newer, WiFi only, preferably 64Gb storage or greater.
- a robust, portfolio style case that wraps around the iPad

Years 7-10: All students strongly encouraged to bring their own laptop device of choice to support their learning. 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 for efficient typing and keyboard skills
- 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. Devices must be named and have a protective sleeve or cover.

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 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 specialist 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. <u>We are preparing for this and students should prepare by having a suitable laptop.</u>

What are the technical specifications of a laptop used by a Year 11–13 student?
- 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 smooth operation
- Touch screen portable devices must have a physically attached keyboard
- A protective casing and firewall / antivirus software is recommended for all devices

<u>**Important notes**</u>:
- We <u>do not support the use of mobile phones</u> within our classes as a learning tool. Mobile phones are not suitable learning tools. Students using mobile phones during school hours without express permission of a teacher will have them confiscated.
- Student devices <u>must not</u> have mobile data access or VPN software installed. This would enable the devices to circumvent our school's strict internet filtering.
- N4L provides free internet filtering for home. See switchonsafety.co.nz for more information.

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

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. Lockable charging lockers are provided for students to store and charge devices safely while at school. Students should provide their own padlock.

More questions?
Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Campus Leads if they have any queries about the BYOD programme:

Golflands Junior Years, DP   brieta.groenewald@elim.school.nz
Golflands Middle Years, DP   mandy.heim@elim.school.nz
Botany Campus, DP   stephen.briscoe@elim.school.nz

Yours sincerely

Murray Burton MNZM
Principal