Elim Christian College

26 September 2024

Dear parents/caregivers,

Re: Updated Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Guidelines for 2025

As you know, digital devices are an essential part of 21st-century education, and at Elim Christian College, we strive to balance both online and offline learning. Students need strong skills in mathematics, reading, handwriting, and typing to succeed in NCEA assessments and beyond. To support this, we offer a blended learning environment with a focus on using digital devices responsibly and maintaining a balance between analogue and digital learning.

We encourage all students in Years 4–13 to have their own Chromebook. These devices are ideal for school use, they are robust and above all they are easy to manage in-house to ensure students are protected online while using approved learning platforms.

From 2025, students entering Year 4 and Year 7 will be expected to bring their own Chromebook to school. iPads and tablets without keyboards will no longer be supported in these years. Please note that while each family will own the device, the school will manage its use during school hours on our secure internet connection.

Over the next three years, we anticipate that all students in Years 4–13 will be using Chromebooks (except for the minority of NCEA students who may require specialised MAC or Windows software for their courses).

Thank you for your support as we continue to enhance your child's learning experience. Please refer to the relevant information/specification sheet below.

Yours sincerely

Murray Burton MNZM, **Principal**

Senior Years BYOD Information Sheet

In Years 11 to 13, NZQA is steadily increasing the number of NCEA external exams offered exclusively online. To prepare for these exams and for everyday learning, students must ensure they have a suitable Chromebook or laptop.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend **all students** have the following minimum specifications on their Chromebook or laptop:

- 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 8GB+ of RAM ensure smooth operation
- Touch screen portable devices must have a physically attached keyboard
- A protective casing and firewall / antivirus software is a requirement for all devices

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*.

Purchasing a Chromebook or laptop
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:

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

Some important notes
- As per legislation, we do not support or allow the use of mobile phones anywhere on school grounds during the school day. PHONES AWAY FOR THE SCHOOL DAY.
- Students using mobile phones during school hours without express permission of a teacher will have them confiscated. They will ONLY be returned to a caregiver or parent on site. No exceptions.
- Student devices must not 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 use. See switchonsafety.co.nz for more information.

Management and maintenance
While staff can assist students with the management and troubleshooting of devices during the school day, the maintenance of devices is the sole responsibility of the student and their parents or caregivers. Students are required to have a protective case, and their device must be clearly labeled. A key homework responsibility is for students to develop the habit of bringing a fully charged device to school each day.

More questions?
Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Deputy Principal if they have any queries about the BYOD

programme:

Senior Years, DP: gary.johnstone@elim.school.nz