What is BYOD?

*Bring Your Own Device* or BYOD is a strategy which allows students to use their own personal digital devices within the school and class environments for learning. One of the main features of this program is free access to the Department of Education and Communities’ filtered internet service through the school’s Wi-Fi network.

Why use BYOD?


BYOD in Year 7 2015

In 2015 students in Year 7 are asked to bring their own computing device to school every day. The device will be solely for the student’s use during the day.

Prior to bringing a personal device for the first time, students and their parents will need to read and sign a **BYOD Student User Agreement** which will set out the responsibilities and expectations for use of the personal device at Burwood Girls High School.

What type of device can we bring?

BYOD is designed to give students and family’s freedom to make technology choices that suit them and their circumstances.

The device must meet the **minimum device requirements** for both connection to the school Wi-Fi network, and for the device to be functional as an aid to learning. The **minimum device requirements** are outlined separately, over the page.

Many students have already indicated that they have a suitable device. Parents and students considering the purchase of a computing device should ensure that it meets the **minimum device requirements**.

What about the cost of a tablet or laptop?

The purchase of a device can be a significant expense but when the cost of a quality device is viewed over three to four years, the expense is considerably less. Many teachers feel that a device with a **keyboard** is the most appropriate for use in the high school context.

Burwood Girls High School places significant emphasis on the integration of technology into many aspects of teaching and learning. The school is committed to its obligation as a public education institution to deliver the same learning outcomes for all our students no matter their families’ financial means. The school has developed a number of strategies which will ensure access to information and communication technologies for all students.
Minimum Requirements for BYOD devices

**Wireless Connection**

Tablets or laptops must have this minimum wireless capability: The DEC wireless network installed in high schools only operates on the **802.11n 5GHz** standard. Devices with 802.11a/b/g or 802.11n 2.4GHz only will not be able to connect.

**Software**

- **Word processing** (Eg. Microsoft Word, Pages, Google Drive)
- **Spreadsheet** (Eg. Microsoft Excel, Numbers, Google Drive)
- **Presentation** (Eg. Microsoft PowerPoint, Keynote, Google Drive)
- **Notetaking** (Eg. OneNote, Evernote)
- **Internet browser** (Eg. Internet Explorer, Chrome, Safari)
- **Antivirus software** All devices must have active antivirus software installed.

**Note:** Microsoft Office is available for DEC students to download at no cost.

**BYOD Checklist**

**Wireless Connectivity**

**Wireless connectivity is key to BYOD devices in schools!**

Devices must support **5GHz** dual band wireless or 802.11 a/b/g/n. (Make sure it supports both ‘a’ and ‘n’.)

This is the most important feature for connection to the DEC network, otherwise you will need to buy a Wi-Fi adapter.

**Battery Life**

**Minimum 5hrs**

Devices need to last the school day. We recommend a minimum of 5hrs battery life.

**Memory and RAM**

**16GB Memory 4GB RAM**

To be able to store and process data effectively these minimum specifications are essential.

**Hardware Features**

**Camera & microphone**

These are necessary to ensure students can participate in 21st century learning activities, a stylus may be useful and a keyboard is strongly recommended.

**Screen Size**

**7 inch screen**

Whilst all laptops should be compatible, tablets need a minimum 7 inch screen to ensure ease of use throughout an entire school day.

**Other Essential Considerations**

- **Casing:** Needs to be tough and sturdy. Can it be dropped without breaking?
- **Weight:** Is the laptop light enough for student to carry each day?
- **Durability:** Consider the overall durability of the device. Are the keys and inputs sturdy?

**Accessories**

- **Carry Case:** A carry case or skin is essential in protecting your device and can provide ergonomic advantages.
- **Insurance:** Devices can become lost or be broken easily at school. Make sure your policy covers these eventualities.
- **Warranty:** Make sure you consider purchasing extra warranty to reduce future repair costs as these devices will be used extensively.
### Existing Devices which meet minimum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Type</th>
<th>Windows Laptop</th>
<th>Mac Laptop</th>
<th>Windows Tablet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating System</strong></td>
<td>Windows 7</td>
<td>OS X 10.7 or higher</td>
<td>Windows 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Windows 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Windows 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wireless</strong></td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Screen Size</strong></td>
<td>greater than 7&quot;</td>
<td>greater than 7&quot;</td>
<td>greater than 7&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Storage Capacity</strong></td>
<td>64 GB hard drive</td>
<td>64 GB hard drive</td>
<td>minimum 16 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAM</strong></td>
<td>2 GB</td>
<td>2 GB</td>
<td>2 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Device Age</strong></td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Battery Life</strong></td>
<td>5 hours</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessories</strong></td>
<td>Protective case/cover</td>
<td>Protective case/cover</td>
<td>Protective case/cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Headphones</td>
<td>Headphones</td>
<td>Headphones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Requirements</strong></td>
<td>Up-to-date Antivirus</td>
<td>Up-to-date Antivirus</td>
<td>Up-to-date Antivirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Device Example</strong></td>
<td>Lenovo ThinkPad X131e</td>
<td>11-inch MacBook Air</td>
<td>Microsoft Surface</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important Notes:**

- Devices based on the **Android** operating system are **not recommended**.
- **iPads** have limited use and are **not recommended**.