



Pittwater House

Secondary School “Bring Your Own Device” Program

Background

Pittwater House adopts a “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) technology program for all Senior students to be used in all learning areas. The technology model in the School is for each student in the Senior School to be equipped with their own device. Pittwater House will provide a site-wide WiFi network, a suite of educational software and configuration IT support. The learning benefits of a BYOD model are that it normalises the use of technology within the classroom and creates opportunities for students to learn, collaborate and communicate beyond the walls of the classroom. Ready access to a laptop provides an invaluable educational resource that complements the learning taking place in the classroom and is suited to the balance between direct instruction and student-centered work.

The 2021 BYOD program involves:

- Students purchasing their own device (privately or through the School’s preferred partner, CompNow);
- Students will be able to, at no additional cost, install Office 365 onto their devices and for some subjects the Adobe Creative Cloud suite of software;
- Students will also be provisioned with a school-based email account;
- Students will be provided an Office365 account to access Apps and cloud-based storage;
- Students and parents can access the learning platform, Canvas, for learning resources;
- Students and parents can access TASS Student Café and parent Lounge for important information;
- For some subjects, students will access e-textbooks via our textbook partner, Box of Books;

It is important that:

1. Each device has up-to-date virus software.
2. If the student is likely to choose technology-based electives, such as IST or Photography and Digital Media in Years 9 to 12 then a higher-powered laptop would be beneficial.
3. iPads and other “App” based tablets such as Android tablets, are not recommended as a prime device due to their limitations. Similarly, Chromebooks are not supported.

Purchasing

Recommendation – MacBook (Air or Pro)

The School recommends the purchase of a MacBook. Please contact Chris Maker, Director of Learning Technologies, chris.maker@tphs.nsw.edu.au for guidance on device selection. There are two MacBook options on the Portal. Both are suitable for students in Years 5 to 9. If students go on to select subjects in their Senior years requiring higher computing power like graphic design or digital music creation, then the higher specification model is recommended.

You are welcome to purchase the MacBook from any supplier, however it’s highly recommended that you purchase one with 3-year onsite Apple Care warranty. It is important that you factor this in when comparing prices between suppliers.

We have partnered with CompNow as our preferred Apple Mac reseller. They also have a selection of Windows laptops for your consideration.

To purchase, the CompNow portal can be accessed at: <https://shop.compnow.com.au/school/pittwater-house>

There are many advantages to purchasing a MacBook through CompNow. These include:

- A 3-year onsite warranty;
- Delivery to your house;
- Setup days before school commences and ongoing IT support
- Repairs done at school during school hours;
- The IT Department provides a self-service portal for all school-related software. This makes installing new software very easy and minimises disruptions to learning;
- New software will be available via the self-service portal as required;
- MacBooks are robust devices that are rarely affected by viruses.

Additionally, we highly recommend that such devices are covered with optional accidental damage insurance and with extended warranty cover. This is available through CompNow during the device order process or please consult your home and contents insurance provider. Please check your policy carefully. The School is not responsible for damage or loss of students' personal devices.

Please also consider purchasing the STM Dux Case cover for the MacBook. Screens are the most vulnerable part to damage and the most expensive part to fix. These covers are definitely worth the cost.

Software

All software is supplied by the School - you do not need to purchase any additional software.

For students with MacBooks, we will make software available via the self-service portal. The IT Department will also hold two setup days in the last week of the January holidays to help get new computers setup and loaded with software.

Students with Windows devices are able to self-install software as per the instructions outlined on the Student Portal: <https://www.pittwaterhouse.com.au/portal/technology-and-e-learning>

All students are entitled to an Office 365 licence, which includes 1TB of cloud storage. We also supply Adobe products for students that require them for various subjects and we use many web-based learning tools. All of our software runs on both Mac and Windows.

Textbooks

Increasingly publishing companies are working on making the e-textbook options more accessible and these often offer a large range of resources and experiences not available in traditional paper texts. A large percentage of texts in 2021 will be either e-only or have e-options. Access details for these texts will be made available via the Student Portal.

Student Responsibilities

Having constant access to technology can be revolutionary to the way students learn, opening up greater opportunities for instant access to information, more individualised and differentiated learning and increased opportunities to be creators of content rather than passively receiving instruction. However, access to technology also comes with responsibility and students must realise that they are responsible for their actions. Therefore, before they are allowed to access the technology at school, they must complete the internet and ICT user agreement. They must also take responsibility in:

- Ensuring devices are always charged each night and brought daily to all lessons;
- Ensuring they are protected with a suitable case and always handled with care; and,
- Ensuring that they back up their files to a suitable location. Computer malfunction is not an excuse for the late submission of work. Students' Office 365 accounts, provided by the School, offer cloud-based storage.

School Support

The IT Department will be able to help setup students with MacBooks so they can connect to our self-service portal for easy software delivery. We can also assist students with connecting Windows laptops to the network and helping them install the software they require.

If you have any questions about devices please contact the Director of Learning Technologies, chris.maker@tphs.nsw.edu.au. If you have any other questions concerning the program please contact the Deputy Principal at james.walmsley@tphs.nsw.edu.au.