

# Devices for e-Learning – Parent Information

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## Introduction

e-Learning (electronic learning) is teaching and learning supported by digital technologies. There are many different digital devices that can support and enrich learning opportunities for students. Portable internet capable devices give students of the 21st century the capability to learn anywhere, at any time. Our aim is for all students to bring their internet capable devices to school to integrate their learning both inside and outside of school. Devices will still be provided for specialist uses and for group teaching and assessment activities. Riccarton High School is developing strategies and systems to support a bring your own device (BYOD) approach for students.

The specific aims of the BYOD initiative are to:

1. Provide guidance for parents as they look to purchase digital devices for their children to use at school.
2. Encourage the appropriate use of any devices that students already own.

## 1. Purchasing a New Device

The following guidelines are intended to help support the purchase of new devices for effective learning.

### Years 9 - 11

The following list should ensure that students are able to use their device for a range of learning opportunities:

#### Essential

- 7"-14" screen
- Battery that can last at least 4 hours - more is better
- Light and portable enough to carry around all day
- Protective case
- Wireless "n" capable
- **Effectively** run an up-to-date operating system i.e.

Device	Operating system
PC laptop	Windows 7
Apple Laptop	OS 10.8 (Mountain Lion)
Ipad	IOS 6
Android tablet	Android v4.0 (Ice-cream Sandwich)

- Must be able to access and **edit** cloud documents eg Google and office 365 docs.
- Word processing software/app
- Able to play standard audio and video file formats eg. MP3, MP4
- Anti-virus and anti-spyware software/app

#### Desirable

- Wireless 5GHz capable
- Camera and microphone
- Personal headphones
- Spread sheet, presentation and graphic editing software/app
- USB slot and/or SD slot
- The ability to run Flash based sites

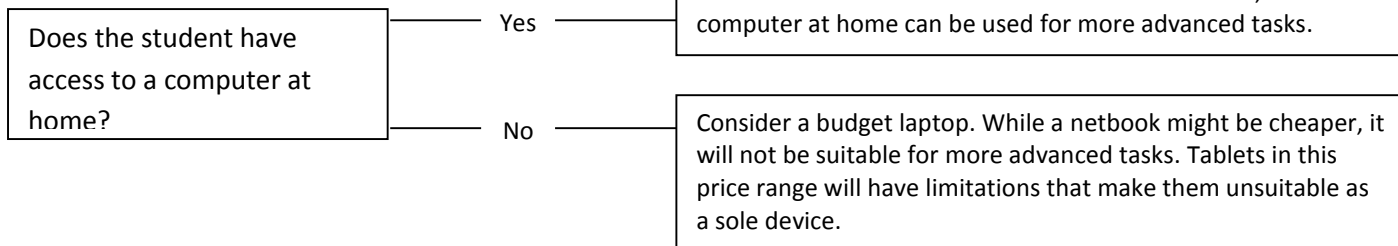
### Years 11 - 13

In the senior school you are likely to re-evaluate your specific device needs based on your subject choices. Some subject areas will require a device with more computing power and/or a physical keyboard.

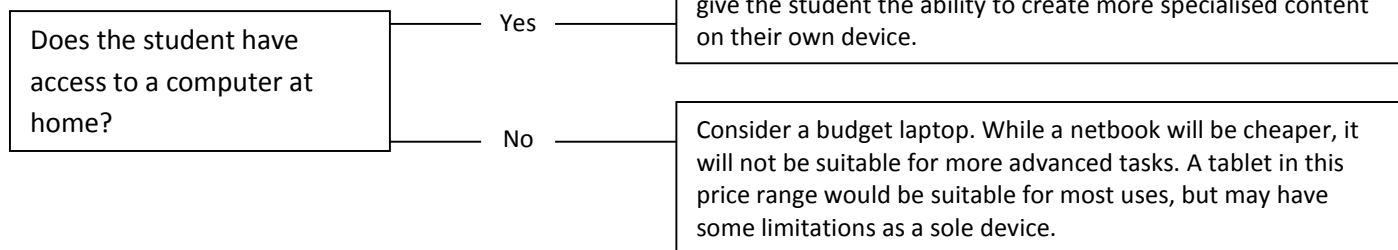
It is strongly recommended that students talk to subject teachers before making any purchases.

## Device Guide by Budget

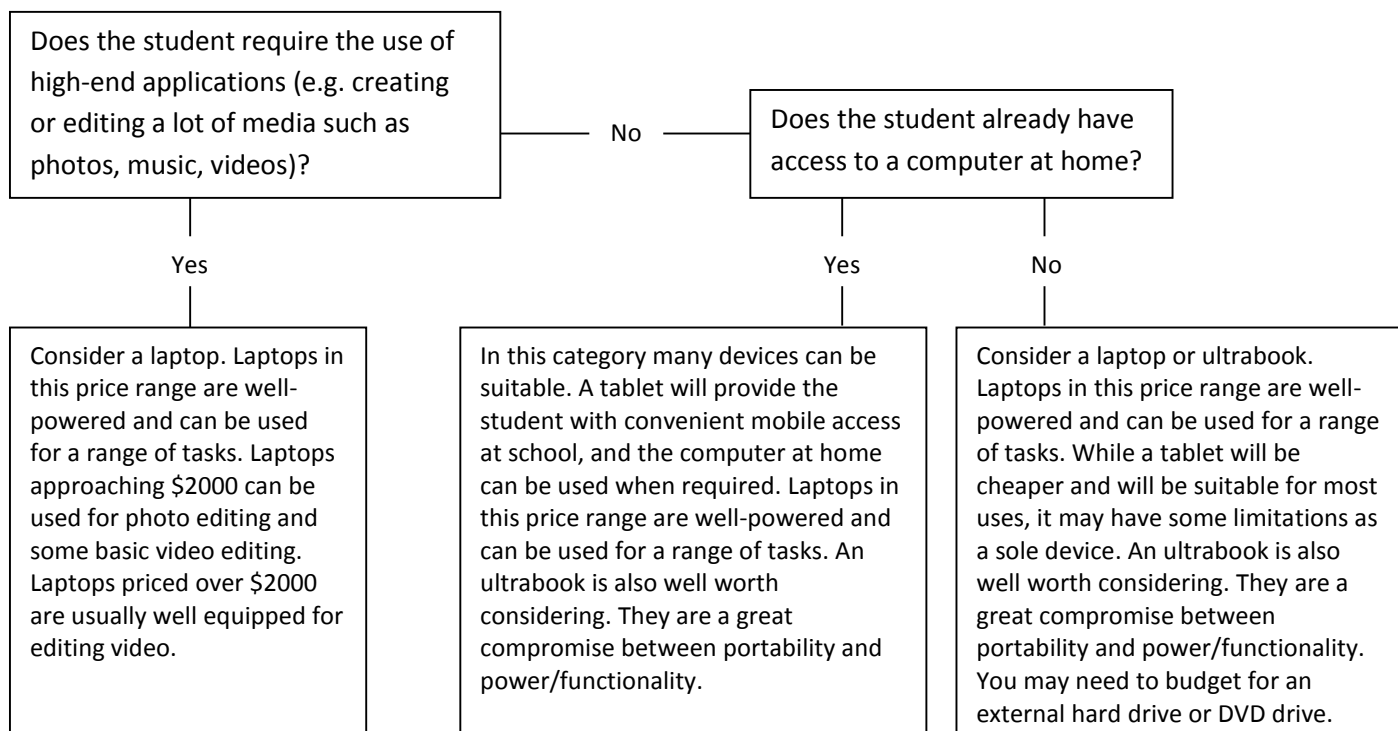
### Budget: \$500 or less



### Budget: \$500-\$1000



### Budget: \$1000-\$2000+



## Insurance

In most cases your home contents insurance will cover your device, but please check your policy to ensure this is the case and that the excess is not more than the value of the device. While we take care to protect students' property, we cannot accept responsibility for devices lost or stolen, so make sure it is covered for these possibilities. Accidental damage insurance may also be available if desired.

## 2. Choosing the right device for the task

Many students already have access to devices that can be used in their learning. The information below summarises the key features of common devices and illustrates the sorts of tasks for which they can be used.

✓ = good for this, blank = may be all right for this - some limitations, ✗ = not a good choice for this.

Features	Basic Smartphone	Advanced Smartphone	Basic Tablet	Advanced Tablet	Netbook	Laptop
Large screen size	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fits in a pocket	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Battery lasts all day	✓		✓	✓	✗	✗
Short start up time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

Tasks you can use them for	Basic Smartphone	Advanced Smartphone	Basic Tablet	Advanced Tablet	Netbook	Laptop
Basic reference, e.g. dictionary, calculator, simple searching	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internet research			✓	✓	✓	✓
Taking photos, recording audio / video	✓	✓		✓		
Manipulating photos, editing audio / video	✗		✗	✓		✓
Communicating with the teacher or other students (e.g. email, text message)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Making minor editing changes to documents		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Creating and working with typical documents	✗	✗		✓	✓	✓
Creating large or complex documents	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓

Examples of Advanced Smartphones: **Apple** iPhone, iPod Touch; **HTC** One X, Evo; **LG** Optimus G, Nitro; **Motorola** Droid; **Nokia** Lumia 900; **Samsung** Galaxy S, Galaxy Nexus; **Sony** Xperia P

Examples of Advanced Tablets: **Apple** iPad, iPad Mini; **Asus** Transformer Pad; **Google** Nexus; **Microsoft** Surface