

Laptop Program

The specified Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Laptop Program at Eltham High School is central to our educational program. Laptops are used in every class as part of an integrated, holistic approach to student learning.

Vision

The vision for Eltham High School's specified BYOD policy is to provide every student with access to technology that will enhance their learning both in and out of the classroom. Our aim as a school is to develop programs which integrate the technology into student learning, allowing for transformative learning practises.

“We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher’s hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world.”

- David Warlick

1:1 Specified BYOD Laptop Tablet Program

It is important that every student has their own device for a true 1:1 program, and that the device belongs to the individual child for them to use both at school and at home. At the end of each school year, a decision is made about the following year's devices. At this stage, it is likely that families will be given a choice of 3 or 4 models of computers from which to choose. This has been the case for the last few years. Any of the devices on the list would be fully supported by the school's IT department and will be able to support the pre-loaded EduStar software suite provided by the Department of Education and Training.

Laptops are ordered by parents online; in 2020 our selected provider was JB HiFi Education. It is strongly encouraged that families use our recommended provider as the devices will come with all of the required extras, plus have all of the software installed before they are collected from the school.

Families are encouraged to work with the school to help students develop good habits around the use of technology.



Our devices

In recent years, Eltham High School has been using Microsoft Surface Pro laptops as the recommended model. In 2020, families had 4 models of Surface Pro from which to choose. There are many reasons for this decision, including:

- ◆ Tablet / laptop versatility
- ◆ Robustness
- ◆ Lightweight
- ◆ Expected 3 years of active use
- ◆ Longevity of battery
- ◆ Stylus for handwriting
- ◆ Cost, including insurance
- ◆ Good reputation with successor models
- ◆ Technical specifications that will support the school software

“Evaluators also report that laptops have facilitated the development of 21st Century skills e.g. digital literacy, creativity and innovation skills, critical thinking and problem solving skills, communication and collaboration, and self-directed learning among students”

(Argueta, Huff, Tingen, & Jenifer O. Corn, 2011, p. 15)

Why a tablet/laptop with a stylus?

The school has deliberately chosen a device that functions as both a laptop, for traditional computer work, and as a tablet. The inclusion of a stylus is the crucial element; research indicates that the thought processes involved with hand-writing generate greater understanding and recall. Furthermore, it is easier to engage in learning in areas that require non-standard characters such as Languages, Mathematics and Science, as examples.

The computer will be used in class, across all year levels. Families are encouraged to purchase a new laptop when their child begins year 10. The two computers will cover a child's entire high school education.

If there are any questions or if you require clarification, please contact Natalie Heath, eLearning / ICT Leader:

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