



BDC
BISHOP DRUITT COLLEGE
COFFS HARBOUR

*Firm
Foundations
Bright
Futures*

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26 August, 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write with information regarding the school's move to BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) in 2017.

Under the federally funded Digital Education Revolution program that began in 2008, BDC was able to buy laptop computers in sufficient numbers for students in Years 9 - 12. The Digital Education Revolution program has now ended and funding has been discontinued. The machines BDC purchased are now increasingly unserviceable.

We have considered the best way forward for the provisioning of information technology at BDC, and have decided that the school will provide technology in the Primary school in the form of iPads and Google Chromebooks. Students in Years 5 and 6 may choose to bring their own device to school, as is currently the case.

In Secondary, we will move to obligatory BYOT in 2017. Increasingly, schools around the country have moved to BYOT. Secondary schools in the Coffs Harbour area and our other Diocesan Anglican schools have BYOT programs in one form or another.

A recent survey of students showed that a majority have a device which they either use at school, or choose to leave at home and rely on our ageing fleet of laptops.

The alternative model to obligatory BYOT is for schools to provide laptop computers for all students. If this model were implemented, an annual levy would have to be charged by BDC to purchase and maintain a bank of computers for students to use at school. The computers would have to be kept at the school and not available for students to take home. This is a very expensive option. In the interest of minimising the cost to parents, allowing the use of existing technology, and maximising choice, BDC will not adopt that model.

BYOT in Secondary will allow students to use their current technology. It also allows parents and carers to choose from an inexpensive range of devices that will serve students well at school and beyond. When considering the move to BYOT in Secondary, finding the most affordable option for families was a critical factor.

Enclosed are details of recommended minimum specifications for BYOT, as well as suggestions as to the best type of device to match student subject choices in the senior years. A wide variety of devices is suggested, and there is a table that shows what device might suit a particular

senior course. As we receive useful information from suppliers, we will share it with parents and carers in the newsletter, by e-mail, and on the website. Some of these could include insurance options.

Unfortunately, the school's insurance policy will not cover student devices, so they will need to be careful to keep their device secured during non-class time. All Secondary students have a weather-proof locker in which they can lock their devices.

The school will prioritise the maintenance and upgrading of its Wi-Fi network, and the increase in complementary hardware such as Apple TV across the campus so that our BYOT program will be supported in classrooms.

We understand that some families will not have the means to provide technology for their children. For that reason, we will maintain a small number of Chromebooks that students may borrow from the library for use at school.

I hope that clarifying the school's policy regarding the provision of ICT in Primary and Secondary gives you time to make particular choices for your child's technology needs in 2017 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Ball', written in a cursive style.

Alan Ball
Principal