

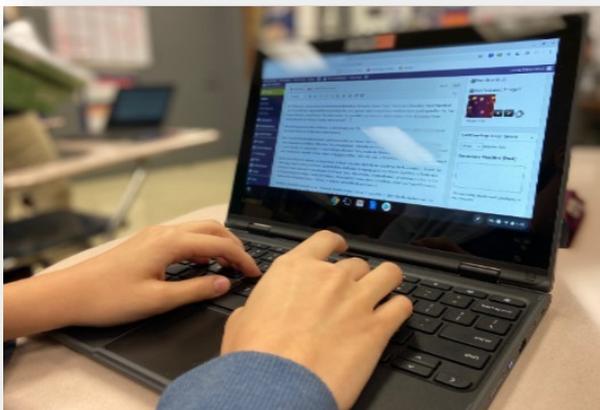


HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

Hitchin Boys' School

Sixth Form

BYOD Scheme



What is the BYOD Scheme?

We are constantly looking for ways to enhance learning opportunities and it has become increasingly clear that students who have access to their own devices in school can work in a more personalised way. Given that post-16 students follow a more personalised curriculum we have introduced a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Scheme in the Sixth Form. **All** students entering Hitchin Boys' Sixth Form are required to bring in a laptop / Chromebook device allowing them in lessons and during private study to access a wide range of electronic learning materials and facilitate learning.

What is the rationale?

The rationale behind implementing this scheme is:

- to access online resources and lessons from Google classroom during students private study periods allowing them the opportunity to focus on coursework, homework tasks and assignments.
- to allow for a greater degree of personalisation and independence,
- to engage students and lessen their dependence on the teacher.
- to get students used to the normal ways of working in a university or employment environment before they leave school
- to allow a seamless transition from classroom to online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic

The scheme is part of the school's wider plan to equip students with the tools to become 21st century learners.

Research has shown us that sixth form students find laptops/ Chromebooks invaluable rather than a tablet and/or smartphone device, particularly in certain subjects. This reflects the increased duration and complexity of tasks in Sixth Form that are harder to accomplish with a smaller touch-screen device, including extended writing and coursework.

Here are few examples of how previous students have used their own laptop /Chromebook device:

- **Student A:** Studies Maths, Physics and Chemistry. In general, this student isn't required to write essays and therefore their mobile device will be used largely for online research, taking notes, to source and complete past papers, to print and to communicate via email with their teachers.
- **Student B:** Studies Maths, Economics and Geography. This student is required to write short essays frequently and has coursework to complete for Geography. They need a keyboard to type with so that they can complete their coursework.
- **Student C:** Studies Photography, Geography and Product Design. This student has significant coursework to complete in all their subjects and requires specialist software for Photography as well as storage space for large resolution images. They intend to study Graphic Design at university and decided to invest in a high spec Apple MacBook now that will last them a long time.
- **Student D:** Studies BTEC Travel & Tourism, BTEC Sport and Business Studies. This student has significant coursework to complete in two of their three subjects. The only software they need is for word processing, creating presentations and accessing the internet for research. They are intending to take a gap year before university.

Your laptop/Chromebook may not be used in every lesson, though the ability to conduct research, access online resources and complete coursework and homework and pre-reading in some subjects will be crucial. This is what we call 'Blended Learning' new technologies are combined with traditional teacher instruction. The choice of which approach to use at a particular point in a lesson is down to the professional judgement and experience of your teacher.

Benefits

By bringing your own laptop, you will have access to the following benefits that will support your learning:

- Password-protected access to the school WiFi network throughout the school with a high bandwidth connection to the Internet.
- Licence for Microsoft Office 365 that allows installation on up to 5 devices.
- A Google Gmail email address to keep in touch with teachers and fellow students.
- Unlimited storage on Google Drive.
- The ability to collaborate on documents with teachers and fellow students via the Google Suite for Education tools.
- Access to learning materials and lesson resources via Google Classroom.
- Access to eBooks and online platforms such as Seneca Learning that departments are increasingly using for materials access.

What device should I get?

Ideally, one that you already own (and are prepared to bring to school for lessons)!

Our minimum requirements are simple:

- At least a 10" screen and keyboard
- At least a 3-hour battery life
- Wireless networking

Almost any reasonably modern laptop will suffice, particularly from the main brands of Acer, Apple, Asus, Toshiba, Lenovo, HP, Dell, etc. Chromebooks from various vendors are also completely suitable for sixth form work and integrate well with our Google classroom though bear in mind the limitations of these devices if you need to run dedicated software for example in Photography, Media and Computer Science.

Students are given unlimited cloud storage space on Google Drive, meaning storage space on the device itself is less of an issue.

You should consider the weight of the device (you will be carrying it to and from school and between lessons) and battery life so that you are not constantly having to recharge it.

Insuring your device is up to you, but personal devices won't be covered by school insurance so you should consider coverage for accidental damage or theft if you think that is a risk. A robust carrying case is a wise investment in keeping the laptop safe.

There are 64 lockers situated in the Sixth Form Centre. (Keys available from the sixth form pastoral office with a £5 key deposit).

We do not recommend specific vendors since prices are constantly changing. Vendors such as eBuyer.com typically offer good value on frequently changing stock and stores such as John Lewis have a reputation for good customer service and extended warranties.

What about affordability?

We do not want financial considerations to be a barrier to any student at Hitchin boys School Sixth Form.

The 16 to 19 bursary fund provides support with educational expenses, and we have worked with bursary-eligible students over a number of years to equip them with laptops.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Christou, Head of Sixth Form, or Mr McPherson, Assistant Headteacher.

Hitchin Boys' School Sixth Form BOYD Scheme

Acceptable Use Policy

This policy is to make sure your child understands the rules for looking after their Mobile Device / Laptop. Please read through the policy with your child and make sure he understands it.

Guidelines for Acceptable Use of Personal ICT Devices

- The use of personal ICT devices falls under Hitchin Boys' School's Internet Acceptable Use Policy which all students must agree to, and comply with.
- The primary purpose of the use of personal ICT devices at school is educational. Using the device for personal reasons should only take place after permission has been given from a teacher or other member of staff.
- Students are permitted to connect to HBS wireless networking services only while using their laptop/Chromebook in school. No other wireless, wired or Internet service is permitted.
- The use of a personal ICT device is not to be a distraction in any way to teachers or students. Personal devices must not disrupt

class or Private Study areas in anyway. Playing games or other non-school work-related activities are **not permitted**.

- Students shall make no attempts to circumvent the school's network security. This includes setting up proxies and downloading programs to bypass security.
- Students shall not distribute pictures or video or any other material relating to students or staff without their permission (distribution can be as small as emailing/texting to one other person or as large as posting image or video online).
- Students must check their personal ICT device daily to ensure the device is free from unsuitable material and free from viruses etc. before bringing the device into school.
- Students must check their personal ICT device daily for basic Health and Safety compliance to ensure it is free from defects. Particular attention should be paid to the keyboard (all keys present; no bare metal exposed), the screen (free from flicker and damage) and the device battery (able to hold a charge). Any personal ICT device that has obvious Health and Safety defects should not be brought into school.

Consequences for Misuse/Disruption

In addition to dealing with misuse/disruption within the remit of Hitchin Boys' School's Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy and the school's Behaviour Policy one or more of the following sanctions may apply:

- Your personal ICT device would be confiscated and kept in reception until parent/guardian picks it up.
- The privilege of using personal ICT devices at school would be removed.

School Liability Statement

Students bring their personal ICT device to use at Hitchin Boys' School at their own risk. Students are expected to act responsibly with regards to their own device, keeping it up to date via regular anti-virus and operating system updates and as secure as possible. It is their duty to be responsible for the upkeep and protection of their devices.

Hitchin Boys' School is in no way responsible for:

- Personal devices that are broken while at school or during school-sponsored activities.
- Personal devices that are lost or stolen at school or during school-sponsored activities.
- Maintenance or upkeep of any device (keeping it charged, installing updates or upgrades, fixing any software or hardware issues).
- Parents should ensure they have **adequate insurance cover** in place to cover the cost of repair/replacement of a personal ICT device in the event of loss/damage to the device.

Disclaimer

Hitchin Boys' School accepts no liability in respect of any loss/damage to personal ICT devices while at school or during school-sponsored activities. The decision to bring a personal ICT device into school rests with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s), as does the liability for any loss/damage that may result from the use of a personal ICT device in school.

