

BYOD FAQs

Do I need to buy a new device for my child?

All pupils in year 12 will need to bring a device to school every day. Some pupils will already have a suitable device that they can bring into school. We have provided some minimum specifications for the 2 different types of devices for families buying a new device. However, we have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options which should be of interest to many parents. Details of these options can be found on the BYOD page of the school website. All devices 'must' be able to be used with a stylus.

What financial options are there for purchasing a device?

We have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options at discounted educational rates with particular assurances on two recommended devices. Every purchase comes with a 2-year warranty and additional cover for the device. Whilst the school has arranged competitive pricing for these recommended models through BT/Freedom Tech, families will be purchasing devices directly from BT/Freedom Tech and therefore the contract is between you and BT/Freedom Tech and not with the school itself. If you still wish to purchase a device online or from the high street, that is fine so long as it meets the device specification. Please bear in mind however that your son will always need to have a device so you should consider some sort of insurance coverage for your unprotected purchase.

My child is in receipt of the 16-19 Bursary or the Albion Trust finding. Can I use this to purchase a device?

Yes, you can. Please refer to the relevant funding guidance and follow the usual procedures.

I cannot afford a device. What do I do?

We understand that finances are difficult for many families, more so than ever with the current economic situation, however we hope that the option to pay monthly will alleviate some of the pressure and make the scheme accessible. If this is not the case please email Mrs Leah (l.leah@keaston.bham.sch.uk). She will get back to you requesting further details.

Will there be some recommended devices?

Through our recommended school supplier we are providing the option to purchase one of two devices that will allow your child to access the core toolset of skills and applications that they will be using across the curriculum.

What if our child has a laptop that we only recently bought and which meets all the specification points but is not stylus enabled?

We recognise that the purchase of a device is a significant financial commitment. The touchscreen functionality with stylus is the central functionality of the device that makes the scheme so powerful and transforms what is possible with the technology in teaching and learning. Pupils and families in this situation should contact the school about how best to support their child whilst an appropriate device is sought.

Why is a stylus an essential feature?

We are now well-versed in the use of devices with touchscreens in the classroom, and digital pens, and their use has proved most effective and transformational in the classroom. Indeed, touchscreens for general purpose devices are now becoming commonplace rather than exceptional. Be it drawing atomic structures in Chemistry, composing music on a staff, annotating and analysing maps in Geography or peer and self-assessing their work, the

possibilities across the curriculum are endless and we are continuing to identify new ways in which the technology can be used to the benefit of the learning in the classroom.

How will the device be connected to the school network?

The pupils' devices will be connected to the school's dedicated BYOD WIFI network, separate from the school's core WIFI network. Your child will receive support on how their device can be connected to the BYOD network, in BYOD introductory sessions and via help guides that we will be providing. Support will also be provided by the IT Department for any pupils who experience issues trying to log on to the school network using their personal device.

Will the device be used in every class?

We always aim to provide your child with an effective learning environment where different learning and teaching activities are used to help your child achieve. This means that our approach to the use of technology is a blended one: it is not our intention to move away from the more "traditional" methods of learning, but to provide access to the most appropriate method for each learning activity – using technology alongside class discussion, written and practical work.

Where should work be saved?

We already provide access to Microsoft Office 365 and your child should save their work within the Office 365 OneDrive space which provides more than enough space for their school work (1TB). This cloud space is available to all pupils from in school and from home, regardless of the device that they are working on.

How will we try to ensure safe use of devices?

We already have a clear and unambiguous Acceptable Use Policy and this still applies when a personal device is being used. There is also a comprehensive approach to educating our pupils on the safe use of technology, through support sessions, talks, PSHE lessons and more.

How will we help to keep the pupils and their devices safe outside school?

The school already takes personal security very seriously with regards to the pupils' use of mobile phones outside school. As we already do, we will continue to work hard to educate the pupils not to have their devices out on display outside school and that they should be tucked away in their bags at all times.

How will a device affect the weight of the pupils' school bags?

We expect the weight of the pupils' bags to decrease with their introduction to the BYOD scheme, with many departments using digital/online textbooks.

What support will there be should my child have a technical issue with their device?

Should your child have a severe technical issue with their device in school, we will aim to provide them with a loan device that they can use until the device is repaired so that they can still access all the lesson activities.

What happens if they lose or break the device?

We recommend that any device purchased outside our recommended scheme is insured for e.g., with your home insurance. Devices purchased through the scheme, will have warranty, insurance and accidental cover (conditions apply).

My son may not achieve the grades to get into the 6th form. What should I do?

We believe that these devices will be of benefit to all students, no matter which school they are attending, however you may wish to wait until after results day to purchase the device.