Recommended Device Specifications

As a school we don't believe that mandating a particular device is necessary, and because individual student needs differ, this can be a complex question to answer. We have however put together the following minimum specifications for a suitable BYOD device at St Bede's College:

A device is one that allows students to create and edit documents efficiently. Students do not require a really powerful (expensive) machine, nor do they need a large hard drive as they will be saving and sharing their work in the Cloud. A solid-state drive (SSD) could be preferable as this will increase both speed and battery life.

One of the many realities of computing in a school environment is that students require a highly portable device with a long battery life. Students must carry their device from class to class every hour and will not be able to rely on having an opportunity to recharge their battery during the day. In addition to this, the device must also be wireless capable and be robust which often means the build quality of the device should be high.

When considering a device, please also bear in mind that the student will be responsible for ensuring that it is kept in good working order as St Bede's College cannot offer technical support for damaged personal equipment.

Recommended Specification

St Bede's College is primarily a Windows based school. This is to enable a consistent platform for the teachers involved to be able to work with.

Screen Size: Minimum 13 inch but 14 inch preferred
Processor: Dual Core (i5 or better recommended)
RAM: Minimum 4GB (8GB recommended)
Hard Drive: Minimum Size 128Gb (SSD recommended)
Built in Wireless: 802.11g, 802.11n or 802.11ac
Windows 11
Protective Carry Case

Other considerations:

- Battery life is a consideration when buying a laptop.
- Warranty – students using the device regularly will want faults fixed quickly, the school will not provide technical support or repair services.
- Insurance – make sure you are covered for replacement if lost or stolen; the College's insurance policy does not cover personal property.

Although we do not mandate the purchase of a specific model or device, however, we encourage you to buy a product that includes the features above to ensure your child has the greatest possible access to the educational resources that will support and enhance their learning. The device you do choose to buy needs to satisfy the minimum specifications. Anything less than this will be a false economy.

We have no issues with students using a MacBook. These devices have excellent battery life and quick start ups, however Chromebooks will pose some challenges with a lack of functionality and ability to run some applications and strongly advise against use of these.

Microsoft Office 365

Microsoft Office does not need to be purchased, as it is now available for all students at secondary and tertiary institutions at no cost. This can be installed when your son brings his laptop to school at the beginning of the year.

For questions about devices:

Mr Kelvyn Pithie kpithie@stbedes.school.nz

For questions about e-Learning:

Mr James Burnside jburnside@stbedes.school.nz