



Warwick School

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Frequently Asked Questions

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

All boys will need to bring a device to school from September 2021. To ensure the continuity of remote education that began during lockdown, we are asking boys in Year 10 and above to bring devices from September 2020. Many boys will already have a suitable device that they can bring in to school. We have provided some indicative specifications for different types of devices for families buying a new device. However, we have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options which may be of interest to some parents. Details of these options can be found on the BYOD page of the school's website. (<https://www.warwickschool.org/bring-your-own-device>)

What financial options are there for purchasing a device?

We have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options at discounted educational rates on two recommended devices. There is also an option to purchase a 3 year warranty for the device. Whilst the school has arranged competitive pricing for these recommended models through System Active and HP, families will be purchasing devices directly with System Active and therefore the contract is between you and System Active 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.

Will there be some recommended devices?

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

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

We recognise that this is a huge change process for the school and that some boys will already have a device that is very new. Once the BYOD programme is fully up and running, every boy should have devices that meet the specification requirements so that they all benefit equally from the classroom activities. In the interim, we will support those boys with non-touchscreen devices as best we can, giving access to shared school devices where possible for that lesson.

Do we need to buy a device for our son who will be in Year 13 next year, when he already has a device?

We recognise that boys currently in Year 13 will only be at Warwick for one more year. All boys will still be required to bring a device to school, and some families may choose to invest in a device that will also last them in to their university years.

Is touchscreen an essential feature?

It is certainly not an essential feature for September 2020. However, touchscreens for general purpose devices are now becoming commonplace rather than exceptional. Be it drawing atomic structures in Chemistry, composing music on a stove, 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 boys' devices will be connected to the school's dedicated BYOD WIFI network, separate from the school's core WIFI network. Your son will receive an email, to his school email address, explaining how his device can be connected to the BYOD network. The email will contain a link to a web page that will allow his to download and install the software required to enable his device to connect to the network.

Will the device be used in every class?

We always aim to provide your son with an effective learning environment where different learning and teaching activities are used to help your son achieve. This means that the BYOD device will be used for some, but not all, lessons. 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. In the event of a future lockdown, we are keen that all resources are accessible on Teams and so Year 10 and above need to be able to access current and future work on there.

Where should work be saved?

We already provide access to Microsoft Office365 and your son should save his work within the Office365 OneDrive space which provides more than enough space for his school work. This cloud space is available to all boys 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. Also, as part of the process that accepts your son's device onto the school network, we will install software that aims to keep the device secure and monitor use of the device whilst it is on the school network.

Where will the device be kept when not in use?

Your son has a locker in which he can keep the device (preferably in a carrying case) when not in use during the school day (eg. break times or when at clubs/activities). These have all recently been updated. As we will be working in Year Group bubbles, movement between lessons is more limited so boys will have their devices with them for the majority of the time. Boys can keep their devices in a locker if they are attending after school practices.

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

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

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

We expect the weight of the boys' bags to decrease with the introduction of the BYOD scheme as departments move to digital/online textbooks. Schools who are further down the line with BYOD have also found this to be the case.

What support will there be should my son have a technical issue with his device?

Should your son have a technical issue with his device in school, we will provide him with a loan device that he can use until the device is repaired so that he can still access all the lesson activities.

What about insurance?

The school insurance cover for personal possessions is limited to £250 per article. However, if the device is insured elsewhere (eg. with your home insurance) then your son's device will not be covered by the school insurance policy. The school insurers recommend that parents insure their devices under their home insurance (or indeed check whether they are already covered).