



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL

Ysgol Brenin Harri'r VIII

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Dear Parent/guardian

RE: A digital device for every student

I am writing to you to outline our developing policy around student digital devices and their use at home and school to support your child's learning.

Context and rationale

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, as a school, we had already moved some way to developing our approaches to the teaching and learning of digital skills. The past six months have seen a huge leap in the way we are now using technology to promote innovative learning through skilled and creative teaching. We wish to inspire all our students to be digitally confident so they not only succeed in school but also develop the full range of digital skills they will require to lead a successful life in the modern world.

The Welsh Government has strongly promoted the use of technology as part of its National Mission to reform education in Wales. The Curriculum for Wales identifies digital competence as one of the key cross curricular skills and the Digital Competency Framework sets out clear expectations for students. These expectations have been supported by the development of the national online learning platform 'Hwb'. The ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a strong and sustainable digital strategy. It has also highlighted the fact that the most significant barrier to student engagement in their learning is whether they have access to their own digital device.

As part of our Check In, Catch up, Prepare provision last summer, students were encouraged to bring in their own devices (BYOD). This was a steep learning curve for the school. It seemed that every child had a different device. Attempting to get all these different models onto our BYOD system was extremely challenging and time consuming. Furthermore, not all students knew how to fully use their devices. It was also very difficult for the teacher or our IT technician to support students in all cases, as they were unfamiliar with some of the devices.

The school has received additional funding through the Welsh Government Educational Technology (EdTech) programme that has allowed us, over the past 18 months, to make an investment in our digital infrastructure and in the quality of digital devices in school. Unfortunately, this funding, although welcome, has not been sufficient for us to secure a digital device for every child.

Preferred digital device

The rationale above identifies the reasons why, as part of our digital strategy, we intend to move to a preferred digital device model. This will allow the school to meet the challenges of the new Curriculum for Wales, deliver innovative teaching and learning, support all students to use their device in a safe way and develop the digitally confident learners we all desire. Our aspiration is that every child should have access to a good-quality digital device at home and at school. Following discussion with the teaching staff at King Henry VIII School, it was agreed that the digital device which would best support innovative teaching and learning across all subject disciplines was the iPad, with a protective case, integrated keyboard and a digital pen. This proposal was then presented to and agreed by the school's governing body. There were a number of reasons for the selection of these devices, including the fact that they:

- ✓ are designed to support the delivery of education across all subjects;
- ✓ can access Hwb, Microsoft 365 applications, Google Classroom and other compatible systems, together with a widerange of educational applications;
- ✓ have a good battery life, a physical keyboard, a stylus pen and front and rear cameras;
- ✓ can be used for multi-tasking, for example, video conferencing while editing documents.

We are clear, however, that students who already have a digital device can continue to use these unless parents and guardians decide they wish to take advantage of the purchase model outlined below.

Digital device purchasing

As already stated, the school and governing body wish every child to have access to a digital device that is more than a smart phone, so they can fully develop as digitally confident learners. This is a long-term aim and we have to be realistic that current funding models for schools make this very challenging. We are also mindful of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. When the school has students isolating at home, or there are lockdowns similar to last year/week, those with devices are well-placed to continue their studies through our Blended Learning offer. Therefore, moving forward, the school and governing body have had to consider a pragmatic and sustainable model of funding for student devices. This includes:

- ✓ the use of Ed Tech funding, future Pupil Development Grant monies and the King Henry VIII School Foundation
- ✓ Governors' Head teacher fund;
- ✓ additional fundraising by the PTCA and governors;
- ✓ parents /guardians purchasing a device for their child.

A key aspect of our planning is that those students from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access the preferred device through the school. However, it should be noted that priority would be given to students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, in view of the fact that they are studying examination courses. The governing body have set up a small team to raise additional funds for this purpose, and if any parent or guardian wishes to join this team, please email the school on info@khs.schoolsedu.org.uk marked FAO Exec HT Elspeth Lewis.

The school and governing body were mindful of the current financial climate and, therefore, have linked up with a preferred provider - 'Academia' – who, as a leading Apple Authorised Education Specialist, are able to leverage and pass on education discounts to us on the procurement of the suggested technology through a bespoke school purchasing portal at very competitive prices. Parents and guardians who wish to purchase a device for their child will be able to take advantage of this. Linking with such a provider delivers some key e-safety elements, and school management of these devices supports the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning. In particular:

- ✓ All iPads purchased through the school portal will be automatically enrolled on the school's mobile device management system. This allows teachers to share essential applications, online teaching resources, and digital textbooks to your child's device, as required for lessons.
- ✓ All software will be regularly updated by the school to ensure that your child's device is always ready for lessons.
- ✓ The school will also ensure that your child's device is secure and the data on it encrypted. So, if your child loses the iPad, we can remotely wipe any personal data from it.
- ✓ Your child's device will also be protected from viruses and malware, using the school's management system.

A short animation has been created to explain the preferred device can be viewed here: <https://sho.co/1EIXU>

Accessing the portal and ordering a device

To access the portal click on the following link [ConnectED Mobile Learning Portal \[NEW\] \(academia.co.uk\)](https://academia.co.uk)

Follow the on screen instructions to select your device. Please note that different models of iPad costs differ dependant on your child's year group. This reflects the cost of the management of the device for the years that your child is in school.

When you have completed your order you will be prompted to provide some key information to ensure that when the iPad is delivered to school we can identify your child and ensure that you receive a message from the school to collect devices from reception. The shipping information will prompt you for the name of your child, having this information will ensure that the package received by the school is correctly labelled with the child's name, having the correct tutor group ensures that should there be more than one child with the same name in the school we again correctly identify student and ensure messages informing parents and guardian of device delivery are done correctly.

Please see the examples below


New Customers

By creating an account with our store, you will be able to move through the checkout process faster, store n

Personal Information

* First Name

* Last Name

* Email Address 


* Student Full Name

* Tutor Group

BILLING INFORMATION

Shipping Information

PLEASE ENTER THE STUDENTS NAME BELOW

* First Name 

* Last Name 

* Address

For delivery before October half term, please order by the 30th September and for delivery before Christmas please place your orders by the 15 November. Please note delivery of orders placed after the November cut-off date cannot be guaranteed by Christmas.

Elspeth Lewis
Executive Headteacher

Mark Stockham
Head of School