Suggested New Devices - 2019

The following suggested new devices could be used, successfully by students, as a BYOT device and form a snapshot of the current market. Other alternatives that are not listed, are believed to be less than satisfactory in the solution they provide.

All Saints Grammar has established a technology partner program to assist in the purchase of an Apple MacBook Air/Pro, A HP ProBook/EliteBook or an Apple iPad device. Our partner CompNow streamlines the purchase process and provides optional extras and an easy finance solution. The parent portal for CompNow is available at: www.allsaints.nsw.edu.au/online-services

Year 6 - 12

Apple MacBook Air & MacBook Pro - $1565 to $3500

Strengths
- Powerful, light and elegant computers
- Great build quality and one manufacturer for hardware and software.
- Good software compatibility by most vendors.
- Includes bundled software iMovie and GarageBand, which are great for creative pursuits such as video, sound and picture editing.

Weaknesses
- Does not have touch screen functionality.
- MacBook Air due for an update (End of October 2018)
- Require converter (dongles) to connect to external devices: projectors, screens, Ethernet, USB (MBP)

MacBook notebooks are versatile machines. They compete equally with alternatives on every aspect of function, and major software manufacturers support Mac versions of all applications including Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Cloud. The MacBook Air is light and provides great battery life. The MacBook Pro range provides added performance, but with some extra weight and reduced battery life. They do not have touch screen options in the current range. Virus and Malware related problems are not as common as with Windows alternatives.

Microsoft Surface Pro (Tablet \ UltraBook)- $1400 to $3600

Strengths
- Comes with a multi touch screen, pen / stylus and OneNote preinstalled. Most natural way for students to take notes and include hand written diagrams and annotations.
- Many of the features of a notebook built into a tablet styled computer.
- Runs full version of Windows 10 and MS Office. Also, handles Google Apps well.
- Removable keyboard to allow for use as a tablet.

Weaknesses
- Require converter (dongles) to connect to external devices

The Surface Pro is great device on the market. A new market leader with multi-touch screen, stylus pen input and OneNote software solution. A student using a Surface Pro can take hand written notes directly on the device; essentially replacing pen and paper completely. Using Windows 10, it is a light device that can run full versions of MS Office and Adobe Creative Cloud. It has great battery life and suits students who are familiar with a traditional PC laptop / notebook, but who want a tablet option as well. Now available in 6th generation.

HP EliteBook X360 1030 G2 (Tablet / UltraBook) - $2000 to $2900

Strengths

- Tablet and Notebook operating modes
- Very light.
- Long battery life.
- Great performance.

Weaknesses

- Bundled software is often time limited trial versions.
- Require converter (dongles) to connect to external devices

This an example of the new standard in portable computing comparable in many ways to the Microsoft Surface Pro, with all the flexibility of Windows PC built into a powerful multi use device. They are lightweight and have a long battery life which makes them great for use at school. With Windows 10, touch screen, a stylus pen, Microsoft OneNote software and tablet mode use, this device can be used to take hand written notes directly. Every major manufacturer will have a model similar to the HP EliteBook X360 1030 G2 at a similar price point.

PC Notebook - $1000 to $3500

Strengths

- Widely used, build volumes are large and prices are very competitive.
- Every option for size, performance and feature available at a price.
- Good external connectivity with included ports for most requirements.
- Hardware Upgradable in future. E.g. more memory (RAM), bigger storage (SDD).

Weaknesses

- Cheap units less than $1000 always disappoint, beware!
  - Can be too heavy.
  - Can be too slow – storage: SSD vs spindle.
  - Can be too slow – CPU: lower specification.
  - Can be under resourced: RAM & HDD size.
- Support for cheaper brands is sometimes lacking.
- Mix of different software and hardware manufacturers.
- Bundled software is often time limited trial versions.

While typically heavier than the Tablet / UltraBook computers, Windows notebooks are some of the most popular devices available. Models are available from many manufacturers in every available size and option. They start at a great price point and are instantly recognised as a traditional laptop or notebook computer. Try to avoid buying very cheap machines, as generally they are heavier, have poorer battery life and/or are under resourced. They run

Windows 10 and will also support full versions of Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Cloud software. Although lower in capacity than a spindle hard disk, SSD Storage (256GB minimum) is a must option to look for in these devices because of massive performance gain and long battery life. Examples include: Microsoft Surface Laptop, HP ProBook 430 G5.

Year 3 - 5

Apple iPad - $450 to $1500

Strengths

- Many students are familiar with the touch screen environment (Apple iOS).
- Ease of use, requires practically no training.
- Large number of Apps available free or at a low price.
- Built in camera and microphone.
- AirPlay & AirDrop connectivity with other devices.
- Bluetooth connectivity and peripherals.
- Quick and Easy to add software from the AppStore.

Weaknesses

- Require external keyboard for traditional computer uses
- Require a protective case and screen film

Apple iPads are well built, light, have long battery life and are great for integrating technology into every aspect of learning both on and off the desk. The iPad Pro is also available with a larger screen, aimed at challenging the traditional uses of computers. The Pro is a really above the needs of students in years 3-5 and might be better suited towards a student in their Secondary years of schooling. The iPad Mini is not recommended as the screen is too small.

All Saints Grammar has adopted the iPad as the preferred integrating technology learning device for students in Pre-Kindergarten through to Year 5.

In addition to the iPad device, all students must also have the following:

- Bluetooth keyboard.
- Protective case (if not part of the keyboard).
- Headphones with a microphone included.
- Protective screen film.
- Access to the App Store to install software.

The addition of a keyboard extends the functionality beyond the familiar touch screen and enables the iPad to be used for a greater number of educational learning tasks.

BYOT software requirements

- From 2019 Microsoft Office software will be available for installation on supported student BYOT devices under the Schools licence agreement with Microsoft. Installation details will be made available early in Term 1.
- Web Browser: the default option from operating system (Safari, Edge) and another option when compatibility issues arise, preferably Chrome or FireFox.
- Word Processing software. On notebooks a choice is Microsoft Word (part of Microsoft Office - included above), but other alternatives are available like Google Documents and Pages on a Mac. iPads can use Pages, Word or Google Documents. OpenOffice software is also freely available on the Internet.
- Presentation Software. Microsoft PowerPoint (part of Microsoft Office – included above) is a good choice on notebooks, and Keynote is very popular on any Apple device. Google Presentations is also an excellent free online tool. OpenOffice software is also freely available on the Internet.
- Canvas App (for iPads).
- Adobe Acrobat Reader for viewing of enhanced PDF files created by Canvas that include teacher annotations.
- Google Apps for Education / Google Drive App.
- Some software is available for use by students on personal devices under the school's licencing arrangements with vendors. In 2016-18 Adobe Creative Suite components were made available to secondary students. The inclusions of each agreement change each year but generally it is getting less expensive and easier to legally distribute licensed software to students on personal devices. In 2019 the inclusion will include: Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud (Secondary students) & Inspiration.
- Security software to protect the user's data and others from infection on the same network. This could be a package product (Antivirus / Antimalware / Firewall / Web Security) available via subscription or free alternatives on the Internet.
- Optional monitoring software solution to keep track of usage while off campus.
- A school provided management software layer and certificates to allow monitoring of device usage while at school as per acceptable usage policy. Devices without this software will not be able to connect to school WiFi networks.
- Other tools/apps may be requested and/or suggested by teachers. A recommended list will go home at the beginning of the school year

BYOT device requirements, suggested options and usage recommendations

- A full day of battery life, charge overnight at home.
- Adequate warranty terms and conditions for when things go wrong.
- Administrative level user account for the student using the device.
- Antivirus / Antimalware software installed, active and set to automatically update.
- A carry case or bag, with a protective cover and screen film layer.
- A data backup solution. Either an external hard disk or cloud based data backup method.
- Adequate performance and resource capability / capacity for the desired function. Eg Graphical applications will require a more powerful device. Movie editing will require a device with large amounts of storage and a faster processor.
- Parent supervision: a copy of all the usernames and passwords, with an understanding that parents will screen the device regularly.
- A good working knowledge of the basic functions of the device and operating system and installed software.
- A reliable home internet connection to enable access to resources.
- Keep the device updated with the current available security and functionality updates from software manufacturer. Do this at home regularly after a doing full device backup first.