

ALL SAINTS GRAMMAR
A GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS



Device Selection

2019

Suggested new device for students: Year 3 to Year 5 in 2020

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

All Saints Grammar has selected CompNow as our preferred technology partner to provide an easy method of purchasing of Apple devices. A streamlined portal is available at:

www.allsaints.nsw.edu.au/online-services

Apple iPad - \$529 to \$1500

Strengths

- Many students are familiar with the touch screen environment (Apple iPadOS).
- 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.
- Extra warranty with accidental damage coverage via AppleCare+

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 family has changed considerably recently. Of the 4 models available the recommendation is the iPad with 10.2-inch Retina Display. The iPad Air and iPad Pro are above this with larger screens and more power but they are 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. Please consider purchasing AppleCare+ warranty with your new iPad. This includes 2x accidental damage repairs during the 2 years of the device (each subject to a service fee of A\$65 for iPad and A\$45 for Apple Pencil).

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.

Suggested new devices for students: Year 5 to Year 12 in 2020

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.

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As of late 2019, it is important to note, the price increases from previous years for nearly every brand and model of computer.

Apple MacBook Air & MacBook Pro – Starting from \$1800

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
- Extra warranty with accidental damage coverage via AppleCare+



Weaknesses

- Does not have touch screen functionality
- Require converter (dongles) to connect to external devices: projectors, screens, Ethernet and USB devices
- Performance applications require the MacBook Pro

MacBook notebooks are versatile computers. 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.

Example: \$1795 Apple MacBook Air with 8th generation Intel Corei5 processor 8GB of Ram, 256GB of SSD storage and AppleCare+ warranty.

Microsoft Surface Pro 7 – Starting from \$2600

Strengths

- Comes with a multi touch screen, pen / stylus and OneNote preinstalled which provides the 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 use device 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 really suits students who are familiar with a traditional PC notebook and want a tablet option as well. Now available in 7th generation.

Example: \$2568 Microsoft SurfacePro7 with 10th generation Intel Corei5 processor, 8GB of Ram, 256GB of SSD storage, Keyboard, Pen and Microsoft Complete for Surface Pro with Accidental Damage Coverage.

HP EliteBook X360 1030 G4 – Starting from \$2700

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 light weight and have a long battery life that makes them great for use at school. With Windows 10, touch screen, a stylus pen, Microsoft OneNote software and tablet mode this device can be used to take hand written notes directly. Every major manufacturer will have an offering like this at similar price point.

Example: \$2700 HP EliteBook x360 1030 G4 with 8th generation Intel Core i5 processor, 8GB of Ram, 256GB of SSD storage Pen and 3 year next 3 day onsite hardware support.

PC Notebook or tablet – Starting from \$1 000

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. Eg 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.



Notebook computers running Microsoft Windows 10 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 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 is a must option to look for in these devices because of massive performance gain and long battery life. Tablets like the Surface Pro and HP EliteBook (above) come at a higher price point and feature touch screen, pen and removable or swivel away keyboard. They can be used like a tablet or a computer.

Start your search with Intel Core i5 processors, 8GB of RAM and 256GB of SSD storage.

BYOT software requirements

- Microsoft Office & Adobe Creative Cloud software is available for installation on supported student BYOT devices under the Schools licence agreement. The student diary has a link to download this software.
- 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).
- Google Apps for Education / Google Drive App.
- Adobe Creative Cloud software is available for installation on supported student BYOT devices under the Schools licence agreement with Adobe. The student diary has a link to download this software.
- 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.
- 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. These should be recorded in the student diary.
- 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.