



# TE AWAMUTU COLLEGE

## BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) 2017



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For 2017 we are requiring Year 9 students to bring a digital device to school to use for teaching, learning and assessment.

Students at all levels may choose to bring a device.

### Rationale

Digital Technologies are a valuable tool to enhance teaching and learning. We live in a world where our students are using digital technologies in much of their lives. We also believe that teaching and learning about the responsible and safe use of such technologies is important for all students.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) offers opportunities for students to be engaged in independent learning, collaboration, creative thinking and interactive learning situations. It offers a vast array of online resources and the ability to access resources from home.

In order to make the most use of digital technology as a learning tool it is important that all students have ready access to the technology. It is also clear that in the future students will be expected to use digital technology for NCEA assessment purposes.



For these reasons we have decided to require that students in Year 9 bring to school a digital device, (not a phone) that is able to be used for learning and assessment.

### Our Resources

We have a school wide Wi Fi network. We use Office 365 for our document and email services. This is a cloud based service allowing students to work from anywhere with internet access.

Included with this are free licences for each student to load the Microsoft Office Suite of products onto up to 5 devices each. There is no need to purchase software.

While our network will work with pretty much any device we are a Windows School using Office 365.

### Minimum Specifications

There are many digital devices that are able to be used for learning.

We also stress that with the speed of change in technology, devices may not last for the five years of secondary schooling.



We believe that any device that meets the minimum specification below will be adequate in the classroom. Obviously higher spec machines will have advantages.

Below are our minimum specifications for the devices we wish Year 9 students to bring:

#### Minimum Specifications:

Screen size:

9.7 inch minimum

Keyboard:

either built in, as on a laptop, or external as for a tablet.

Battery Life:

at least 6 hours of battery

Wi Fi:

able to connect to our Wi Fi

Memory:

minimum of 2g RAM (4 is preferable)

Other considerations:

- Robust but lightweight
- Bag or protective case
- Active anti-virus protection (there are many free software versions)
- Warranty - usually one year but we recommend extending this to 2-3 years

- Insurance - Te Awamutu College can't accept responsibility for devices which are lost, stolen or damaged.  
(Parents/caregivers should check their insurance policy)

Ideally students would have a full operating system such as Windows 10 or MAC OS for the widest range of applications. **This is more important for those without Internet access at home.**

Also, as students progress through the school they may require greater functionality depending on their subjects.

We are aware that many students have purchased a device for use in their primary schools e.g. Chromebooks. These will be able to be used at Te Awamutu College.

Noel Leeming, Heathcote Appliances and Paper Plus in Te Awamutu and PB Tech in Hamilton are all aware of our specifications and recommendations and will be able to provide advice.

## Frequently asked Questions:

### Will students still use pen and paper?

Yes - students will not be using their devices all of the time. There are many times when other ways of learning are more appropriate.

### What about Charging the Device?

We do not have facilities for charging devices which is why we require a 6 hour battery life. Students are not to bring the charger to school. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the device is charged for the day.

### What about security?

At present students are responsible for the safety of their own property and this will not change with BYOD. We do not have storage facilities for devices.

### Do I need to buy any software?

No - all students at Te Awamutu College are able to download the Microsoft Office Suite of programs onto up to 5 devices each.

### Why not a phone?

We acknowledge that at times a phone may be useful, for example, to take a photo. For most school work however phones are not sufficient.

