

Frequently asked questions

- What is the change?
 - The major change is that families will be asked to purchase a device for their student upfront rather than 'lease' the device from the school for three years.
 - While the upfront cost is more, there will be a reduction of the IT levy for next year's Year 7 and 10 cohort, additionally, students can keep their device for longer than three years and not have to refresh it.
 - For senior students, such a purchase could be a good investment as the device will likely be useful for students well into their post-schooling studies.
 - The change will secure a higher specification device for student use. It will offer the students choice, the ability to tailor their machine with the requirements of their study and preference.
- Why the change?
 - Technology is always changing and advancing. It makes sense for our laptop program to offer students the best possible options for their study. This is particularly evident in the rise of cloud-based computing. A one-size-fits-all approach is no longer appropriate as we encourage students to 'write their own story'.
 - Furthermore, there has been extensive consultation with students, parent and industry experts which has led to this decision.
- How will this improve teaching and learning?
 - The current model encourages all students to conform to a particular model of use. By giving students greater control over their device and software choice it promotes critical thinking skills. They will also have to identify their own trouble-shooting methods as not every student will have the same setup; this promotes both IT competency, persistence and resilience.
- Can I buy my own laptop and bring it to the school?
 - The only laptops supported under the CYOD system will be those offered by the School
- How will I purchase the new laptops?
 - The new laptops will be available for purchase through the School's purchasing portal. This will be advised.
- Will there still be a laptop levy each year?
 - Yes, although it will be significantly reduced. The new levy will be \$400 per year which covers software licences, e-books, tech support, network infrastructure and a ready replacement in case of breakage or error
- How much will the new laptops cost?
 - Indicative pricing will be available in October
- Why is it just being rolled out for Years 7 and 10 in 2018? Isn't this unfair to next year's Year 11 and 12 students?
 - The rollout will be significant and it makes sense to do it in a phased manner. These are the Year groups which represent the next cycle of laptop rollout. Students in other grades can join this program, but would need to place their order at the same time as the Year 7 and 10 students. Additionally, they would also need to continue to pay the current IT levy (i.e. \$630 or \$730) for the remainder of the current device's 'lease'.

- What if I have a child in Year 7 and Year 10 next year?
 - The new arrangements will still apply for families in this situation, however, there may be scope for phased payments. This will be at the discretion of the Headmaster.
- What about students on scholarships or bursaries?
 - The purchase cost and levy will still apply for students under such enrolment agreements
- How will the program work for international students, in particular, short-term study tours?
 - These arrangements are still being investigated. More information will be available in the near future on these specifics.
- What about content filters?
 - On the School internet connection there are sophisticated filters that catch most inappropriate content. This filtering will remain in place. The School is happy to provide advice for home-monitoring systems if you would like greater protection for your home internet environment.
- Who should I contact if I have technical questions or need more information?
 - Please contact Techzone via: tz@stpauls.qld.edu.au