Senior School
Students and Technology

Rouse Hill
Anglican College

In this document you will find information and answers to questions you may have about how Year Seven to Twelve students use technology at Rouse Hill Anglican College. Year Seven to Twelve students are expected to bring a device with them to the College as a part of the normal learning routine.

FAQS

Q: Why do students bring a device to school?

A: Our students use technology as a tool for learning. They may use a device at school or at home to research information, develop their written communication skills or express themselves creatively. The BYOD guidelines seek to give students the skills to use technology safely and responsibly.

Q: Who should bring a device?

A: All students in Years Seven to Twelve.

Q: How will the devices be used in class?

A: Students bring their own device to school for use when the teacher determines that the device is an appropriate tool to achieve a particular learning objective. RHAC gives students access to Canvas, a learning management system, and a Google drive account for collaboration, content storage and email management.

Q: Will hard copy books be used in classrooms?

A: Yes. The College uses a combination of e-books and hard copy textbooks, believing that some use of hard copy books is important to reduce the amount of time students spend looking at a screen. The use of e-books should reduce the weight of students' bags. Students will write notes by hand as well as typing notes using their device.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Q: What type of device will students use?

A: Students are expected to bring their own laptop each day.

It is difficult to outline minimum specifications when students bring their own device as the needs of students differ. Students who are upgrading from an iPad device should consider their possible needs for the future and are encouraged to speak with subject coordinators and teachers about the types of devices students use in their elective subjects in Year Eleven and Year Twelve.

Rouse Hill Anglican College does not promote one vendor or device type and most families appreciate this flexibility. Devices that students have reported as suiting their needs at the College include the; Apple MacBook, Microsoft surface, Chromebooks and HP/Dell i-5 or i-7 notebooks.

Q: What software will students need?

A: The only software RHAC recommends downloading is Adobe Acrobat (free version). Other software, such as Microsoft Office, is optional. Most applications students will use on their device are web based and do not need to be downloaded (including a school email account).

Q: What are the minimum requirements?

A: We have included a set of minimum requirements and functionality below. We have also outlined recommended specifications to help parents choose the most suitable device. In most cases, if you purchase a new personal laptop computer it will meet these specifications.

Specifications	Recommended	Adequate
Screen Size	13"	10"
Connectivity	Wi-Fi to access College Network 802.11 G or N	Wi-Fi to access College Network 802.11 G or N
Sound	Earphones and device microphone	Generic earphones
Power	Portable battery charger Long Battery life for school day	Battery powered
Keyboard	External Physical keyboard	External Physical keyboard
Cover	Protective case/bag	Protective case/bag
Identification	Engraved identification	Clearly Labelled
Operating System	OSX, Windows, Chrome	Latest operating system
Web Browser	Chrome latest version	Updated latest device version
Antivirus software	Yes	Yes
Free software	Adobe PDF	PDF software

Q: Where should I buy a device?

A: The College does not specify or recommend a particular shop or provider. An external purchase complying with the College's recommended specifications can be made at any number of local retailers who can supply devices including Apple stores, Officeworks, Harvey Norman, JB Hi-Fi, and the Good Guys.

Q: Should my child download songs, games, movies and other media on their device?

A: No, unless a teacher expressly directs students to do so. If students have downloaded and access non-school related material from their device, or access non-school related material through the internet while they are at school, disciplinary consequences may apply.

At home the College recommends that devices are kept free from potentially distracting material such as games, songs and movies.

Q: Who is responsible if a device is damaged, lost or stolen?

A: While the College staff will promote the safe management of student owned devices, the security of the device rests with the individual student.; Rouse Hill Anglican College takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices. Therefore, parents may choose to insure the device they purchase for their child.

Q: I have an old laptop at home; can I give this to my child to use?

A: Yes, although the device must have a long battery life and meet minimum specifications outlined in this document.

Q: What happens if my child's device malfunctions or is broken?

A: The College IT staff will provide technical support related to the connection to the College wireless network and Internet.

   For hardware issues, parents will need to make their own arrangements. College IT staff cannot attempt to repair personal devices, as this may invalidate the warranty.

   Students who have a temporary issue with their device are able to borrow a College laptop for the day from the College library and should do so at the start of the day. This service is provided for the day only and is a short term solution for students experiencing temporary issues with their own personal device.

CONNECTIONS

Q: Will the College provide Wi-Fi?

A: The College will provide wireless internet connection to students while on the premises during business hours.

Q: Will there be web-filtering?

A: The College does have filtering software that should reduce the risk of students accessing viruses, mal or ransomware or inappropriate material while students are using their own device while on the school site. Facebook and other social media sites not deemed to be of educational value will be blocked on site. Parents are encouraged to purchase web-filtering software to reduce the risk of their child being exposed to inappropriate material when they are not at school. A suggested solution to help set internet boundaries at home can be found at http://www.kidsblocker.com.

Q: Will my child be able to use mobile connections instead of the College Wi-Fi network?

A: Students must only use the College's Wi-Fi service to connect to the internet whilst on College premises and must not use 4G/5G for their device. 4G/5G connections can become very costly and are not subject to web-filtering. If purchasing a new device, it is our strong recommendation that no mobile web enabled devices are purchased.

DAY TO DAY USE AND SUPPORT

Q: Are students able to print hard copies?

A: The College provides limited opportunities for students to print directly from their personal learning device in some cases. Students may also use the College computers to do their printing using their normal College login details.

Q: Will there be means of charging the device at College?

A: Personal devices must be fully charged before school each day and run on battery power while at school. We strongly recommend you purchase a device which has a substantial battery life so that it lasts the full school day, however, there is a charging station available in the College Library for students to top up their devices if needed during breaks.