2016 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Transition

Information and Communication Technology is integral to learning. The use of ICTs can accelerate, enable, improve and transform student learning in all key learning areas and phases of education. Through use of ICTs, teachers can engage the digital generation, improve individual learning opportunities, spark innovation and enhance pedagogy.

In 2016 Browns Plains State High School is transitioning to a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) model, for computers and other personal electronic devices, due to the cessation of the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund (NSSCF).

The National Secondary School Computer Fund (NSSCF) was a major funding element of the Australian Government’s Digital Education Revolution (DER). It assisted with the provision of new computers and other information and communication technologies (ICT) equipment for students in Years 9 to 12 over the last 4 years.

The aim of the NSSF was to work with schools to manage an ongoing computer to student ratio of 1-to-1 for students in Years 9 to 12. Funding from this program enabled the school to purchase laptops for any use within the schools context. The NSSCF funding ceased in 2013 and as such we can no longer fund the replacement of so many devices across our campus.

Currently we have around 500 laptops funded from the NSSCF which are located on our laptop trolleys within each faculty of the school. We intend to continue to maintain our desktop computer labs (5 rooms + iCentre) with the small amount of technology funding that we do receive. However, we will be unable to replace the tablets/laptops which are currently used on our classroom trolleys.

To continue to allow students access to devices, we have to move to a parent funded model. This involves BYOD Device (Bring Your Own Device). Students will be allowed to bring their own device to school. Details of the device requirements are available on the school website and usage agreement. The infrastructure expansions and connection support will be covered by an increase in the technology levy which is paid by all students through their school fees.

In 2016

* Year 10, 11, 12 & specialty subjects (Graphics, IT, Media): by the end of the year majority of students should be bringing their own device to school.
* Year 7,8 & 9: students may bring their own device however access to computers will be available within their subject areas – students will be required to bring their own device from 2017

In 2017 it is expected that majority of students across all grades will have transitioned to the BYOD model.

To help support parents and students with this transition two portal links will soon be available to assist with purchasing of a device that will adequately support student learning within our school environment. Each site provides a range of devices, warranty and insurance options, cases, technical service and multiple payment options. Please be aware that the school does not endorse any one supplier as this is a parent choice.

* BES Portal – will supply ASUS devices
* OfficeMax Portal – will supply HP, Lenovo and Toshiba

*NOTE: Devices can be purchased from any supplier. Window based devices are preferred. The device must be able to support Wireless N 5GHz bandwidth, Office 365 and Windows 8 or newer. See website for more details*.

To assist students and families with BYOD the Department of Education and Training have the following software applications available to all enrolled students:

* Office 365 – Free
* Norton Symantec Virus Protection $10
* Adobe CS6 (coming in 2016 – base version is free, master version $20)

More details about the 2016 BYOD transition will soon be available on the Browns Plains SHS website and in future school newsletters.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Cole (BEIT Coordinator) or Mr Dalton (Deputy) (07) 3802 6222.