Secondary School
Changes to the Student Device Program starting in 2024

The College is moving to a school-owned student device beginning in Year 7 in 2024 and repeating this each subsequent year until all Secondary students are using a school-owned device. There will be scope for parents of Year 10 students to opt-in to this program each year. All other year groups will continue with the BYOD model including adhering to minimum requirements for these devices.

School-Owned Device Deployment

From 2024

- All Year 4 and Year 7 students will have school-owned student devices.
- Year 10 students will have the choice of 'opting in' to the school-owned student device program, which the College strongly encourages, given the associated benefits.

2025

- All Years 4, 5, 7 and 8 students will have school-owned student devices.
- Year 10 students will have the choice of 'opting in' to the school-owned student device program, which the College strongly encourages, given the associated benefits.

2026

- All Years 4 to 9 students will have school-owned student devices.
- Year 10 students will have the choice of 'opting in' to the school-owned student device program, which the College strongly encourages, given the associated benefits.

2027

- All Years 4 to 10 students will have school-owned student devices.

Why is the College moving to a school-owned device program?

Since the inception of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in 2016, the College has been navigating the following challenges:

- Damaged, faulty and misconfigured devices in the classroom.
- Virus and hacking risks associated with BYO devices.
- Difficulties with troubleshooting and assistance because of the many different device types.
- The right of ownership debate regarding installation of software and management of the device.
- Student equality issues when purchasing devices.
- Teachers required to support multiple platforms when delivering lessons.
- Student access to non-educational content and the difficulty in filtering and controlling student owned devices to mitigate this problem.
- Off-task use of technology in class.

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What will it cost?

Current pricing is approximately $800 per student per annum, for three years (from Year 7 to Year 10), after which a new device will be provided for Years 10 to 12. This cost will be represented in a technology levy in family fees. The cost will include:

- Device
- Device management
- Comprehensive warranty
- Protective case
- Service and support
- Swap out and replacement
- Software and licencing

When will the program start?

In 2024 for Year 7 students and as an opt-in option for Year 10 students and then repeated for three years until all students have a school owned device. It will not affect students currently in Years 10, 11 and 12.

What is the effect on my child who is currently in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9 in 2023?

These students will move to the school owned device program when they reach Year 10.

Can I opt-in outside of the Year 7 and 10 entry points?

The device has a life cycle of three years (Years 7 to 9 and Years 10 to 12). Allowing opt-in outside of these entry points would make deployment and management of devices untenable. Therefore, we can't provide opt-in as a choice outside of the Years 4, 7 and 10 entry points.

Why is the platform Windows based and not Mac or Chromebook?

This is in keeping with staff devices and the College Windows infrastructure. The type of platform has minimal impact on learning, however mixed platforms create confusion and overheads for implementation, function and management. In keeping costs to families manageable, the College can negotiate a competitive pricing structure with a Windows device.

We have a device at home. Can my child use this at school?

No, it is important that the students have the same device with the same software suite and the same security settings. The device is one part of the whole package which includes support, software, management, security, warranty, service agreement and swap outs during repairs to ensure minimal disruption to learning.

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We have seen devices for cheaper than the College device. Why are we spending more?

The school is sourcing the best product at the best price with bulk buying power. The cost includes the whole package as indicated above.

Will the price be the same for future students?

John XXIII College will negotiate prices each year. Consequently, the price may vary between year groups.

At the end of three years can I buy the device outright?

At the end of Year 9, all three-year old devices will be replaced with new devices for Year 10. The three-year old devices will be returned to the College and will be factored into the total cost of the program. Devices will need to be returned in good condition.

At the end of Year 12, three-year-old devices will be given to students.

What if my child leaves John XXIII College?

The College will require the device and all associated peripherals to be returned in an acceptable condition. Charges may apply if the device is damaged.

Will the device work at home?

The device will connect to home networks and students will be able to access online platforms at home (e.g., YouTube, Netflix, etc). However, they will not be able to install software or change device settings.

Will families still get access to Family Zone cyber safety software at home?

The Family Zone product ends production on 30 June 2023. The College will transition to a new internet filtering model which will be available for home and school use from 2024.

Will the new system mean my child will never be off-task on a device in class?

There are no absolute guarantees against off-task use of devices. However, the ability to access, manage and secure school owned devices will result in more control over making our students safe, secure and on-task in the classroom.

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