



**Mackay Northern Beaches State High School**

**Bring your own device program (BYOD)**

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What is BYOD?**

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device (suitable device for school use). It is a scheme designed to allow all students at Mackay Northern Beaches State High School to have access to digital learning.

### **Why BYOD?**

Previously (2011-2015) the federal government funded NSSCF program provided laptops to students. This program no longer exists but students need to have access to the Australian Curriculum as it is delivered in Queensland State Schools. This requires MNBSHS to be able to deliver the curriculum digitally across all subjects.

MNBSHS is delivering lessons using technology and needs to continue this practice to effectively deliver the curriculum and continue to develop students as contemporary learners.

### **How will my child be using their device in the classroom?**

Technology is a tool in the day-to-day learning of contemporary students, not a special event or something separate from their everyday experiences. Different teachers in different classes will use technology in different ways. Students will not be learning in a paperless or wholly online environment. They will be using technology in classes to support the best possible approaches to rigorous teaching and learning.

### **How will my student keep their device safe?**

Parents are encouraged to purchase a protective case and students are encouraged to use this case for all transportation of the device during the school day. The school does supply class laptop trolleys for Year 7 students transitioning into high school. These trolleys move with the class for their core subjects. There are some lockers for senior student usage. Locker allocations are available at the beginning of the year.

### **Why does my child still have to have a textbook list?**

The school has developed quality electronic resources and students are provided with access to digital and interactive textbooks. However, students will still have textbooks in some subjects where digital texts are unavailable. Some publishers have yet to offer their books in an electronic version and it is important to give access to the best resources to support student learning.



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### **Why do the students still have to buy traditional stationery to use in class?**

Having a device in class will not make MNBSHS a paperless school. Many aspects of learning will best occur through students experimenting with a pen and paper, or manipulating things in a traditional way for many years to come. When the best way to engage with ideas or concepts is through technology, teachers will use it.

### **What do I need to do as a parent/carer?**

Plan to purchase a device suitable for school needs. The estimated cost is from \$800 to \$1500. The cost will depend on the device selected. Many outlets will offer payment plans.

### **What are the minimum requirements for a computer?**

#### **Minimum Requirements**

Machine Type:	Laptop only
Screen size:	Between 10" & 16" – 14" to 16" preferred
Processor:	Intel i3 or higher - i5 for technical subjects
RAM:	8GB preferred for technical subjects
Hard drive:	150GB or higher
Operating System:	Windows 8.1 or above Apple OSX 10.8 or above
Wireless:	802.11n or higher
Ports:	1 x USB port minimum, audio in/out, in-built microphone, camera, ideally SD or Micro SD card reader
Battery life:	6+ hours (6+ cell or higher)
Other:	Laptop must have a Physical Keyboard

#### **Necessary Software**

- Microsoft Office 365 supplied free of charge (including licensing for up to five devices), accessible from the school website.
- Suitable Anti-Virus software
  - Parents/carers can purchase Symantec Anti-virus via "The Learning Place" for \$9.99 per year. See the school website for instructions on how to download.
  - But most other anti-virus software should be suitable.

#### **Other items the school recommends parents/carers purchase**

- Protective case. Please note that the MNBSHS is designed to carry laptops
- Pointing device (mouse or stylus)
- Onsite warranty (Next Business Day (NDB) Onsite Warranty is STRONGLY recommended)
- Accidental Damage Protection insurance (ADP) preferably from the manufacturer



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### **Can I buy any laptop for my child?**

Yes, provided it meets the minimum requirements as detailed above.

### **What do I buy?**

A device that has the minimum requirements as detailed above.

### **What costs are involved to access the BYOD program?**

A yearly \$40 Student Network Access Fee, which supports student access to:

- Library Online portal – 24/7 access to digital resources and online databases to support research tasks;
- Clickview Online digital video library;
- Electronic textbooks including interactive texts and eBooks;
- SafeAssign - anti plagiarising software;
- Range of software for specific curriculum use including Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Language Perfect and other subject related software;
- Printing budget;
- Onsite IT Support for students and parents;
- Software development to enhance access, communications and eLearning;
- Access to short term replacement device to ensure continuity of learning whilst own laptop is being repaired (by approved application only); and
- Development and maintenance of BYOD connector.

### **What if I cannot afford to buy a laptop?**

- Students can hire a laptop from the school on a term-by-term basis – at a cost of \$80 a term, which includes the yearly \$40 Student Network Access Fee. Payment plans are not an option. Students will be able to take the laptop home after school, on weekends and school holidays.
- Students experiencing financial hardship can apply for a day loan computer. Student Resource Scheme must be up to date and the yearly \$40 Student Network Fee paid. For further information please refer to the BYOD Day Loan Program on the school website.
- Laptop outlets can provide payment plans. Discuss payment options at the point of sale.
- Please contact HOD of School IT for more information.

### **What if my student laptop requires repairs?**

A limited number of day loan laptops are available for students with laptops under repair. Parents/carers need to write a note of explanation which is presented to the Resource Centre. These devices are available for day loan only for a maximum period of 2 weeks.

