




# CUMMINS AREA SCHOOL

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## TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN YEARS 8 & 9 IN 2020 RE: BYOD Laptop Program Update

At the August meeting of the Governing Council, it was recommended that the current 1:1 BYOD Laptop Program be extended include to our Year 8 and 9 students.

This means that by the beginning of the 2020 school year, all students from Year 8 to Year 12 will be required to supply their own laptop for use at school.

In addition to the extension of the program, we ask that ALL purchases of new laptops for school, **for all year levels**, use must be made via the School Ordering Portal – <https://cummins.orderportal.com.au>

This decision has been made to alleviate the current issue of the many varied devices being purchased which do not meet the required minimum specifications for use at school.

The online Order Portal will provide families with a variety of suitable devices which meet the required specifications, including some accessories, insurance and finance options. We aim to make suggestions as to which devices would be better suited to different year levels once the Portal has been updated with our chosen devices. It is also anticipated this decision will be beneficial to our IT staff when required to troubleshoot any issues which may arise.

Students may also have the option of leaving their device at school in a secured space if parents would prefer, rather than carry them to and from school each day.

*\*Please note; Apple devices are not recommended and therefore will not be supported for use in our school environment as they are not easily managed within our school network.*

We urge parents to consider having an appropriate personal effects, accidental loss or damage and theft protection insurance policy that covers your child's tablet device and other belongings, whilst at both home and school. The School does not accept any liability for damage or loss of any personal possessions.

Considerations when purchasing a device for your student:

- Insurance – check the conditions of your home contents insurance to see if the device will be covered or other insurance options for purchases made via the portal are available.
- Transport between home and school – it is recommended the device should be carried in a sturdy protective bag away from food & water bottles.
- Charging - Students are expected to charge their device at home and bring it to school every day fully charged. Personal power adapters are not to be used at school unless they been tag tested.



Whilst enrolled at school, students are connected to the school provided internet and are protected by a significant Departmental filtering system that prevents access to many harmful or malicious sites. According to Cummins Area School ICT Acceptable Use Policy, students may use the internet only for learning related activities that are approved by a teacher.

Students have access to download Office 365 as part of their Learnlink email account, which provides access to Word, Excel, Powerpoint etc.

It is the responsibility of the student / parent / caregiver to setup the Home-Internet connection on the device.

Students are required to perform 'Software Updates' on the device at least once per month in order to install the latest virus definitions and security patches.

Students are strongly encouraged to backup necessary files in numerous locations, including via email and cloud services e.g. Google Drive, where appropriate. Technology failure is not an approved circumstance for extensions at Cummins Area School.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 8676 2388.

Regards



Mel Degner  
Principal



Kris Speed  
Governing Council Chairperson

