

11 May 2015

Dear Parents,

The shape and role of technology in education is evolving quickly and we constantly need to adapt in order to harness the ever-growing capacity and applications that are available to teachers and students. As you are aware we have been running a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) initiative at GCS for the past three years. Although BYOT has been a choice for students and parents, from September 2015 we are making it mandatory for all students in the Secondary to BYOT.

Starting in the next academic year students in grades 6, 7, 8 and 9 will no longer have stand-alone computer technology lessons as IT will be fully integrated into the curriculum. The role of the IT staff will change from that of classroom teachers to that of consultants and problem-solvers. Students will therefore require the use of either a laptop or an iPad in all their individual subject disciplines. Rest assured, GCS will continue investing in technology by increasing the bandwidth to support the growing number of users and the demands they place on the system. We will also be refurbishing one of our current CT labs with 25 new iMacs as well as having two other CT labs with Windows PC's. Furthermore each department will have a resource bank of iPads.

The practical implication for you as parents for the next academic year will be to ensure that your child is equipped with either a laptop or an iPad.

In light of the way our schools' digital vision is heading, we do recommend (but not require) that you invest in Apple Technology and iOS devices, such as a MacBook or an iPad however it is your choice. We advise the below minimum specifications for you to consider before purchasing your child's technology device.

**Windows Laptop:**

1. Hard Drive: 500 GB
2. RAM: 4 Gb
3. Processor: Intel Core i5
4. Bluetooth/Wifi/USB Ports/Audio and Microphone Jacks
5. Operating System: Windows 7
6. Software: Microsoft Office 2013, Google Drive, **Licensed** Antivirus

**Macintosh MacBook:**

1. Hard Drive: 500 GB
2. RAM: 4 Gb
3. Processor: Intel Core i5
4. Bluetooth/Wifi/USB Ports/Speaker and Microphone Jacks
5. Operating System: OS X Yosemite
6. Software: Microsoft Office 2013, Google Drive, iPhoto, iMovie

Please be aware that according to our Internet, Technology Equipment and BYOT Acceptable Use Policy, students will be responsible for their devices at all times. These should not be left unattended and when not in use, should be safely locked away in their lockers.

If you would like further clarification on this new initiative please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Andrew Wood & Amun Quershi  
Principal & Educational Technology Director