

Teaching and Learning with BYOD



At Marsden we recognise that technology and learning are deeply connected in today's world. Students instinctively use digital devices for a broad range of functions outside of school and those same devices are also integral to their learning at school.

By asking students to 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) we are connecting the different aspects of their lives and helping them to see learning as continuous and life-long. The way their devices are used at school may be different to the way they are used at home but the rapid adoption of digital technology by young people means that they are quickly able to adapt their pre-existing skills to make the most of its educational potential. Having access to their own device at school is now integral to learning.

At Marsden, a device is compulsory for all students in Years 7–13.

e-Learning

As described on the Ministry of Education's tki website elearning.tki.org.nz 'e-Learning' is learning and teaching that is facilitated by or supported through the appropriate use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).'

'Best practice e-Learning enables accessible, relevant, and high-quality learning opportunities that improve student engagement and achievement. e-Learning has the potential to transform the way teaching and learning takes place. It is about using technologies effectively across the curriculum to connect schools and communities and to

provide accessible, relevant, and high-quality learning opportunities so that every student is better able to achieve their full potential.'

Best of both worlds

e-Learning is only part of the classroom diet. Students are still required to discuss, write, take notes, draw diagrams and illustrations, present, perform, collaborate and take handwritten tests. Examinations are still largely handwritten although NZQA is moving towards online assessment in the near future.

In the classroom

The students' relationship with the teacher is integral to their learning. Online capability has given teachers the facility to broaden the range of ways in which they deliver their programmes, engage with students and personalise learning and feedback more effectively.

In class and at home, students can use their devices to:

- Work on assessment tasks
- Access the iCentre catalogue for research databases and helpful websites
- Read online text books or e-books
- Conduct research using databases or the internet
- Take virtual trips
- Review notes or learn new content through 'flipped learning'
- Access class resources, support or extension material
- Share and collaborate with teachers, other students, their parents or outside experts
- Draft, re-draft and publish their work.

The right device – recommendations

Students are encouraged to bring the tablet, netbook or laptop they already own. A smartphone is useful as a backup option but should not be the device that is used regularly. If you are buying a new device, the following points are useful to consider:

- Wireless connection – students will be connecting to the school wireless network
- Mechanical keyboard
- Microsoft Windows, Google Chrome or Mac OS
- Minimum 4GB Ram for Chromebook and 8GB Ram for Windows and Mac
- At least a 6-hour battery life to last the school day
- USB ports to connect digital devices such as a digital camera, hard drive and printer (or a USBC to USBA adaptor if it doesn't have one)
- Webcam and microphone
- Screen size – consider that students may be using this for many hours in the day. 11.6 inch plus is recommended
- Lightweight for easy transport between home and school
- A protective cover or bag.

While students up to and including Year 9 may find a tablet or netbook adequate for their needs, students from Year 10 and upwards are working on laptops. Students working in design and technology subjects at senior year levels tend to have a preference for Macs because of the programmes they are working with. The school does have Mac technology available for student use however.

BYOD Scheme

We have suggested some devices for you to consider when purchasing a device for your daughter. You can order these online at PBtech, use the code SMCS20 for the Marsden special deal.

<https://marsden.ultranet.school.nz/Web/4030/>

Personal responsibility

Students are responsible for the safety and security of their device to and from and around the school. The device should be named. Marsden takes care to protect the property of students and staff but cannot accept responsibility if a device is lost, stolen or damaged. Please make sure you have considered this in your own insurance policy. Year 7–13 students are allocated a locker with a combination lock or key. Primary lockers are not lockable. The school's IT support team are unable to service student-owned devices. These will need to be taken to an external company for repairs etc.

Digital citizenship

While censorship of harmful websites is practised at school, our philosophy at Marsden is to monitor and guide students in their online behaviour. We encourage responsible use of their devices and students are asked to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement annually. It is important that students understand the significance of their digital footprint and adopt practices that keep themselves safe online.

We recommend that parents and students visit Netsafe <https://www.netsafe.org.nz> for guidelines on children's online safety and setting up their device.

While technology is now part of our everyday lives, we encourage our students to put down their devices and remember the importance of face-to-face conversation.