



# KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL, ABERGAVENNY



*Ysgol Brenin Harri'r VIII*

## A digital device for every child FAQs

As you are aware prior to the COVID-19 crisis, we had already moved some way to developing our approaches to the teaching and learning of digital skills. The past twelve months have seen a huge leap in the way we are now using technology to promote innovative learning through skilled and creative teaching. We wish to inspire all our students to be digitally confident so they not only succeed in school but also develop the full range of digital skills they will require to lead a successful life in the modern world.

The Welsh Government has strongly promoted the use of technology as part of its National Mission to reform education in Wales. The Curriculum for Wales identifies digital competence as one of the key cross-curricular skills and the Digital Competency Framework sets out clear expectations for students. These expectations have been supported by the development of the national online learning platform 'Hwb'.

The ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a strong and sustainable digital strategy. It has also highlighted the fact that the most significant barrier to student engagement in their learning is whether they have access to their own digital device.

We have encouraged our older students to bring in their own devices (BYOD). This has been a steep learning curve for the school. Attempting to get all different models onto our BYOD system has been extremely challenging and time consuming. Furthermore, not all students know how to fully use their devices. It was also very difficult for the teacher or our IT technician to support students in all cases, as they are unfamiliar with some of the devices.

The school has received additional funding through the Welsh Government Educational Technology (EdTech) programme that has allowed us, over the past 24 months, to make an investment in our digital infrastructure and in the quality of digital devices in school. Unfortunately, this funding, although welcome, has not been sufficient for us to secure a digital device for every child.

A parent engagement event was held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of March. The aim of the meeting was to ensure that there is clarity around our digital strategy and provide answers to questions raised on the evening.

During the meeting, there was an excellent discussion of the devices that can be purchased through the portal. For the full answers to all of the questions, please watch the video, the summary below aims to capture the main points raised during the evening.

The video of the meeting can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3cj0iOI>

### Frequently asked questions

The questions raised on the evening have been grouped according to theme and can be seen below.

- **Do I have to buy the whole bundle can I just buy the iPad?**

At the present time there is a minimum bundle that is being offered comprising an Apple iPad, Logitech keyboard and crayon. There is the option to add insurance to this bundle or upgrade to a 128GB Ipad. Build into the cost of the bundle is also the price of the warranty, pre-loading and preparing the iPad for deliver and a licence for Jamf Pro, the mobile device management system.

- **Does the school own the device?**

The device is the property of the student. When the student leaves school the Jamf Pro licence will terminate and the device will no longer be managed but useable

- **Price of the device with finance is expensive**

The finance company are independent of both KHS and Academia and so we have no control over the interest rate that they quote. There is however no obligation to arrange finance through the portal this can be arranged separately at a more competitive rate.

- **Can the device be used as a personal device as well as a school device**

The devices are managed by the school, which means that software updates and applications can be remotely sent to individual machines. However when the device is in the home students would still have access to iCloud and iTunes and can purchase apps and use the machine as a personal device.

The mobile device management system that we are using, Jamf Pro, also gives parents the ability to manage the device through an app that can be downloaded.

- **Do the devices take memory cards?**

Yes a piece of equipment can be purchased that allows the use of a USB drive, however this is not usually a satisfactory fix, if you are concerned about the size of the memory on the iPad then purchasing the larger 128GB machine would better suit your needs.

- **When will KS3 be asked to bring devices to school?**

Students in years 7 – 9 are not currently required to bring devices into school as the focus of support for devices is being given to Years 10 -13. Later in the summer term we will begin to run trials with years 7 – 9 with a view that all students throughout the school bring a device from September 2021.

- **What cover do I get if I purchase the insurance?**

Insurance is **optional** but if you choose to buy insurance with the bundle then it does cover damage and theft. The policies can be found here <https://admin.store.academia.co.uk/media/wysiwyg/ConnectED/compucoveripid.pdf>

- **I don't want my child to carry a device will they still be able to borrow a device from school?**

There will always be equipment in school for students to loan. It is hoped that through the policy of students bringing their own devices where possible, this will free up school equipment for those who do not bring devices to borrow.

- **How often will the portal be open?**

The portal will be open twice this academic year and then each term moving from September 2021

- **I have already bought a device do I need to buy another one**

There is no requirement to buy a device through the portal on the website. Many parents will have purchased devices to support their children when home learning and it is fully acceptable to bring this device to school. Any non-managed devices would need to be connected to the bring your own device network. User names and passwords are generated by the school and full instructions for connecting devices to the BYOD network can be found on the school website.

- **If I have bought a non-Apple device will this cause problems for my child in school**

Staff who plan activities that require an apple iPad will have access to school equipment to ensure that all students have access to the same devices for specific tasks. Similarly the schools chosen learning platform is Hwb which is accessible from all types of device.

- **Equity of provision**

A key part of the schools digital strategy to ensure that every child has access to a device is to maintain a good level of devices in school to ensure that students have access to equipment.

Those parents who would like to discuss how the school can support them please contact the school on 01873 735 323 or on our school email address [info@khs.schoolsedu.org.uk](mailto:info@khs.schoolsedu.org.uk) marked FAO: Mrs R Davies.