BYOD at Waiheke High School in 2021

Technology is an integral part of today's learning environment and how we teach today's students. It is part of students' lives inside and outside of the classroom as much as it is part of the universities and workplaces that will greet them when they leave school. To be successful in 21st century society, our students must be able to operate effectively in an environment shaped by digital technologies, such as the increasingly pervasive use of the internet and social media. The ubiquity of such technologies requires teachers to update their pedagogy - the theory and practice of teaching and learning. Many have called this the need for a '21st century pedagogy', new ways of teaching and learning that continue to acknowledge the collective wisdom of the past while embracing the realities of the present, and striving towards the future.

At Waiheke High we want our students to have the best learning environment that we can provide. To do this we need to embrace a 21st century pedagogy. This is not solely about throwing computers or tablets into the mix of what we already do, but very much includes investigating the way we teach, adding to the tools that we use, and allowing students the agency to use technology in a variety of ways that can further support their learning.

In 2016 we introduced Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) on a trial basis for two classes: an incoming Year 7 class and a Year 9 class. We felt that a staged introduction of BYOD would help us develop and refine the pedagogies required to teach in this environment, to learn what our students want and need from a technology rich environment, and to move forwards towards full implementation.

In 2017 and 2018 we opened BYOD up to students at all years in the Junior School, from Years 7 to 10. We now have a considerable number of teachers at Waiheke High School with experience with BYOD classes. They continue to share their expertise and experience with fellow staff members. Virtually all teachers are confident and willing to teach BYOD classes.

Waiheke High School is well placed to go further with this initiative and we seek the support of our school community. In 2019 all students in year 7 brought their own device, and in 2020 this was extended to all students in years 7 and 8. In 2021 we expect all students in years 7 to 9 will have their own devices. There will be Chromebook available for loan on a daily basis for students who cannot bring their own device, but it is best that they do have their own personal Chromebook or laptop.

*Outline of BYOD Specifications for Waiheke High School*

* **Chromebooks are fine for junior classes and for many students will be all they need at high school!** These are generally pretty robust, have good battery life and are comparatively cheap. For example, PB Tech have a range of Chromebooks in the $300 – $400 region.
* A **Laptop, Netbook, or Tablet PC (Smart PC)** will provide students with a comprehensive learning tool and is ideal as an ***information and content creation device.***
* We do not support the use of iPads as BYOD’s.
* **Internet Browser** - The Google Chrome browser is recommended for our systems.
* **Language** - The device operating system and browsers must be set to display in English.
* **Battery Life** – Batteries should last 5-6 hours to be able to get through a school day without recharging.
* **Weight -** Should be light enough for your son or daughter to carry around all day. Anything more than 1.5kg including the case might be too heavy.
* **Robustness** - Your device should be strong enough to survive a fall onto a hard surface.
* **Insurance** - While we take care to protect students' property, we cannot accept responsibility for devices lost or stolen, so make sure it is covered for these possibilities. Accidental damage insurance may also be available if desired.
* **Warranty -** Minimum warranty is 1-year, but you may want to consider upgrading this to a 2 or 3-year warranty. Another factor is how long the device will be away for should it require repair under warranty, it could be a few days, or as long as a few weeks. Check if the supplier can offer a loan device should repair be required.

**As mentioned above, PB Tech in Queen Street have a good range of suitable devices at competitive prices. Check their website: <https://www.pbtech.co.nz/>. Click on the BYOD tab and choose Waiheke High School. You will see a range of BYO Devices recommended by our school.**

**Alternatively, the local shop: The Island's Computer Guy Ltd, 23b Tahi Rd, Ostend, sells Chromebooks and Laptops and have promised us they will match any of PB Tech’s prices.**