



# MARLBOROUGH GIRLS' COLLEGE

*Te Kāreti Kōhine o Wairau*

## Digital Devices for Learning

Tenā koe Parents and Caregivers

In 2021 we are asking that all students from years 9-13 bring a digital device for learning. The use of such devices allows our students to access a wide range of opportunities for learning which are beyond the walls of the classroom. Students using devices are able to collaborate in solving realworld problems and to develop the essential learning skills that are needed for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Affordability and support for the purchase of a device

We are aware that not all parents are in a position to purchase a device if this is not indicated early, and we appreciate that the start of year is expensive after Christmas and the purchase of uniforms, stationery etc.

At MGC we have Chromebooks that we can provide to students who are unable to provide their own. For this reason, we are trying to provide you with early notification of the need for students to have a device. If you are wanting to borrow a chromebook, this can be arranged in the first couple of days of school.

We do not require expensive or high-spec devices. An existing device purchased for use at your child's primary school may well be sufficient in the first instance. What is essential is a device which is lightweight, has a good wireless chipset to enable easy access to the school Wi-Fi and a long battery life so it will last the school day.

The "Chromebook" currently being used in several schools is a satisfactory option, especially if you have one already in use at their current school. The Chromebook meets our minimum specs for a device. If you are purchasing a new device, please consider the specifications in this letter before you buy.

### NOTE

1. **Phones are not considered suitable** for a main BYOD device, as the screen is too small and not all apps work or view well on the screen.
2. **Ipads and other tablets** are not our preferred option as they often do not have the capability to run the apps such as Javascript and google drive, causing frustration for the student and the teacher. However, if your child already has one of these we will accept this in the first instance.

### Information for the purchasing of a new device or reviewing an existing device

#### **Software Specifications**

MGC has no preference for device brand or software as we aim to utilise Google Suite and other platforms free to use online.

Once your child is enrolled and starts at MGC they will be eligible to download **Microsoft Office for free** using the school credentials so there is **no** need to purchase this software.

## Device Specifications for students at Marlborough Girls' College

1. Ability to easily access Wi-Fi	Device needs to be internet capable and have a wireless chipset that enables quick and easy access to the school Wi-Fi	Essential
2. Screen	At least 10 inches to prevent eye strain. A smartphone or 8inch tablet is not adequate	Essential
3. Battery Life	6-8 hours of use time (not stand by time). The device needs to be capable of being used throughout a school day.	Essential
4. Keyboard	Yes. This might be an attached keyboard or as part of a cover.	Essential
5. Earphone jack and cheap headphones		Highly desirable
6. Lightweight	The weight of any device is worth considering. While lockers are available, most students choose to carry their devices with them all day.	Needs consideration
7. Peripherals	Cover protection, a mouse, inbuilt camera, touch screen. These are nice to have but not essential	Consider

Please note also, Chromebooks and other cheaper device options **do not** allow for storage of large video or music files that your student may wish to download. If this is something a student requires then a more expensive device with larger storage capacity will be required OR alternatively the purchase of an external hard drive/ thumb drive to store these items.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on [Emily.stenhouse@mgc.school.nz](mailto:Emily.stenhouse@mgc.school.nz)

Ngā mihi nui

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