Bring Your Own Device at Rickmansworth School

Parents and Carers of students in Years (new Year 7), current Year 7 and Year 8 have heard me speaking of this new initiative at Rickmansworth School. If I were to say to you as parents you are to return to school, to study 10 subjects with 10 different exercise and text books, I am certain the vast majority of you would say to me, this is not the way we work anymore. However, in many schools we continue to work in the traditional manner. At Rickmansworth, we are fully aware we are working with highly skilled digital natives, but we are not tapping into this valuable skill. Therefore, we join along with many other schools, the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) to school scheme. We believe in integrating digital learning, with technology as a complementary piece of equipment in a student’s “pencil case” which supports and develops different skills, alongside the more traditional approaches of reading, writing, drafting, spelling and drawing, traditionally practised in schools.

The advantages of eLearning include:

- Engagement and interest for students to learn interactively
- More effective diagnostic testing for students and staff; electronic tests with immediate feedback
- Online collaboration, modelling and peer assessment to improve grades
- Ease of sharing work and learning from each other
- Regular and frequent exposure to relevant technology in all subject areas, as opposed to once a week in an IT suite

The roll out of this, will begin for the new Year 7 and current Year 7 this September, followed by the current Years 8 and 9 in January 2019. We have secured a deal for parents to purchase an ACER laptop / tablet for your son / daughter for a cost of £13.17 a month (£2 less than we had shown at our Parent Information Evenings) for 36 months and then the computer is yours to own. This cost also includes insurance. Your son / daughter may bring in their own computer from home, however it needs to be Windows based, as this is the schools operating system. Therefore, the following devices are not compatible - Kindles, Phones, iPads, Chrome Books. Our aim is for all students to BYOD during the course of next year. Parents in receipt of pupil premium need to contact their Director of Learning to arrange for a device, if they do not have a compatible model at home.

**E- Safety**
The electronic safety of children is taken very seriously at Rickmansworth School. We expect our students to use their computers responsibly and we provide support to make sure they are aware of how to stay safe when using technology in school and at home.

Please find attached to this email information on the ACER computer and the information from EDEE for ordering your son’s / daughter’s computer.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Douglas
Headteacher