Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to invite students in Years 8 and 9 to join our BYOD Learning Scheme. Having recently migrated to become a Google school, we have decided to use Chromebooks for the BYOD Learning Scheme which will complement the BYOD Acer Learning Scheme rolled out in 2018.

Our students’ daily lives are filled with technology and they are quick to embrace new developments. We want our students to feel at ease in this rapidly changing climate and help students prepare for careers and degrees that are yet to exist. The BYOD Learning Scheme will help our students to become responsible digital citizens and lifelong learners.

The BYOD Learning Scheme is an opt in scheme and provision will be made available for those students or families who choose not to join it. However, as a school we firmly believe in the merits of the scheme and the significant benefits of every student owning their own device. Having visited numerous similar schools we anticipate 95% of students owning their own device.

Since 2018 personal devices have been used in Year 7 and 8 lessons, with students speaking very positively about the impact when used effectively. Over 90% of students confirmed that using their devices for learning in the classroom was enjoyable and, most importantly, 98% confirming that the use of personal devices enhances their learning.

Where personal devices have been used we have seen improved engagement and outcomes for students, but the impact of the scheme has been restricted due to a variety of reasons. Significant research and planning has now resulted in the ICT updates highlighted opposite which has addressed previous restrictions. We are now confident that with all students having their own device the scheme will flourish and significantly transform the learning environment for all students.

The use of personal devices has facilitated lessons to be even more engaging and lets the school extend effective learning beyond the classroom. Your child will use their Chromebook in all subjects whether it be for research, producing work or interacting with their peers during the lesson. Your child’s Chromebook will be an essential piece of equipment and access to G Suite for Education will enable all our students to have anytime access to information where they are.

I hope that you will find all the information you need about the BYOD Learning Scheme within this pack. Should you still have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact at anytime via byodinfo@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Fletcher
Headteacher
ICT Developments to Prepare for the BYOD Learning Scheme

- Significant developments to our IT infrastructure will be completed over the summer in 2019, including increasing our Internet speed from 200mb to 500mb and increasing WiFi access points from 91 to 110 ensuring coverage in all areas of the School.
- We are migrating from our current Cloud Based Learning Platform to Google. This will allow staff and students to access the resources and tools available through G Suite and specifically Google Classroom.
- Our CPD strategy for teaching staff in 2019-20 will focus on BYOD Learning. We will be appointing a Lead Teacher for Google and a Lead Teacher for BYOD Learning.
- All Key Stage 3 students will have extensive training on the use of Google in computing lessons.
- Students will be able to seek daily support from Google Champions at lunchtime who will provide guidance on the use of G Suite and minor issues with their devices.
- Schemes for Learning are being amended to develop and further establish the use of BYOD Learning, with clear expectations for the frequency of use.
- BYOD Learning will be used to support Form Time activities.
What’s in the packages?

We are delighted to be able to present you with a Chromebook packages offering you OUTSTANDING value for money both in terms of robustness and price. We have worked hard to ensure that parents are offered the best possible price as we recognise that this is a significant financial commitment. We have visited several schools and looked at the models that they are using and how they are integrated into the school network. We have also tested a similar model of Chromebook to ensure that that they function effectively on our network. We have been through a rigorous and competitive process to recommend these devices, however, you are very welcome to purchase your own Chromebook if you would prefer a different model with an equal or greater than the specification listed later in this document. Parents wishing to do this should email byodinfo@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk. This option will still be subject to the £17 management fee stated below.

The Chromebook (C213)

£17 management license included, this will allow us to push out educational apps and manage the devices centrally.

Repairs

We are providing an on-site repair service for Chromebooks purchased as part of the Rickmansworth School BYOD Learning Scheme. This service will continue for three years after your child receives their Chromebook.

If the Chromebook is still under warranty we will arrange repairs/replacement as necessary. Any faults that are not covered by warranty can be repaired for the cost of parts without invalidating the warranty. Our IT department will have a full price list for repairs. Please contact IT on byodinfo@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk

Insurance

Rickmansworth School will not offer to insure the devices for loss, damage or theft.

You should check the cover terms of your household insurance as this may cover devices in and out of your home. Some packaged bank accounts also come with ‘gadget’ insurance included.
How much will it cost?

The Asus C213
- a rugged Chromebook built specifically for the rigors of educational use
- 3 Years Manufacturer Warranty
- Management Licence (£17 included in price below)
- Cost £247.00 (a deposit of £100 will required when ordering)

How will I make payments?

The Student Chromebook Package can be paid for online via Scopay.

Your deposit will be required by 30th September to order your Chromebook, with the balance to be paid before collection in October. You can also pay in full by 30th September.

The scheme is voluntary to opt into. However, Rickmansworth School recognises the benefit of the scheme and wants to encourage as full participation as is possible.

Therefore, where this outlay may be difficult to absorb at short notice the School is willing to be as flexible as we can be with the payment arrangements.

If you wish to discuss a payment plan that better suits your personal circumstances, for example by paying in instalments by standing order, please do not hesitate to contact our Finance Department at byodfinance@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk

[Please note that ownership of the Chromebook is dependent on receipt of full payment.]
When do we get our Chromebook?
Once full payment has been received or a payment plan has been arranged, Chromebooks will be allocated to students. Chromebooks, boxes and paperwork will be handed out to students within 5 working School days of full payment or finance arrangement being agreed.

Why has the School opted for Chromebooks?
Students need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world. Research has confirmed that good home access to technology has a positive impact on a child’s educational achievements; it often motivates them to do schoolwork by providing more interesting and engaging ways to learn. Student work is often better presented so their self-esteem grows and they can explore subjects that interest them in their own time.

Chromebook features
- Works seamlessly with Google Apps for Education and other cloud-based applications which all of our students and teachers already use extensively
- Less than 8 seconds to boot up
- Long battery life
- Simple technology
- Easy student-teacher workflow
- Large number of computers can be managed centrally
- Excellent collaboration tools

The School’s recent migration to G Suite allows us to:
- Create, share and collaborate using G Suite for Education
- Use subject-related apps in the classroom and at home
- Learn collaboratively

Traditional methods of learning and teaching still have an important place in education and will continue in our School. Chromebooks should be seen as an additional educational tool and not as a replacement for these methods. We have trained our teachers and teach our students to use these devices productively and effectively.
Technical Specifications

Asus C213 — £247.00 (incl. management fee of £17)

Processor:
Intel Celeron N3350 Dual Core

Operating System:
Chrome OS

Graphics:
Integrated Intel HD 500

Memory:
LPDDR3 SDRAM, OnBoard Memory 4GB

Display:
11.6” 16:9 HD (1366x768)

Dimensions:
307 x 199 x 20.65mm (WxDxH)

Networking:
Integrated 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac
BT 4.1 support (on WLAN+ BT 4.1 combo card)

Weight:
1.25 kg

Interface:
1x combo audio jack
2x USB (A) 3.0 port(s)
2x USB (C) 3.0 port(s), 1 for power
1x AC Adapter Plug

Storage:
32GB eMMC

Battery:
10-13 Hours life

Warranty:
3 years on-site warranty
3 years maintenance (excluding parts)
RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL
SCOTS HILL
RICKMANSWORTH
WD3 3AQ
T: (01923) 773296
EMAIL: admin@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk