BYOD Frequently asked questions and answers

What is BYOD?
BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device and involves students bringing their own portable internet connected digital devices (smart phones, tablets, laptops) to school as a tool to enhance their learning. Students bring their device to all their classes and have access to a broad range of course content stored on the cloud, both in and out of the classroom, enabling “any time, any place” learning. BYOD is about bringing the classroom to the student and not limiting them to a single path of learning and a single pace of working. Students are also able to interact with an enormous suite of ICT based learning tools and knowledge that is simply not possible in the traditional classroom. Learning can become more student centred. This will be a focus for all year 7 students in 2016. However, all students are being encouraged to BYOD.

What will students do with these devices in class?
Students will be accessing information on the internet and using online learning portals to provide resources such as subject specific web sites, videos, podcasts and documents to enhance and extend their own learning. We currently have two main online platforms for learning. My Learning, based on the widely used Life system from Learnology is one place where learning programs are delivered but due to its complexity it is only offered by some teachers. More recently students, teachers and parents are collaborating around student learning utilising the simple to use but powerful productivity platform, Google Apps for Education (GAFE). Both these platforms are accessible anywhere at any time with an internet connection. Eventually My Learning will be phased out as staff and students take up GAFE around the school.

Will students be using other ICT devices at School?
We understand that the device a student brings to school may not be suited to every task that teachers want students to engage in. To ensure all students get equitable access to learning activities, the school has purchased and will provide access to a range of devices that students will be able to use where their device is not suited to a specific activity. As an example, some activities will require high-end processing power, such as complex film editing or 3D printing. In these situations, teachers will ensure access to laptop or desktop computers is provided so that students are working with the most appropriate tool for the task.

How will a child’s education differ if the family does not have an Internet-connected device to bring to school?
Many lessons are collaborative allowing students to work together, sharing information accessed through personal devices. When the work is individual, students may use computers and other devices located in classrooms and/or in the Library. No child’s learning experience or academic performance will be affected because he or she does not have an Internet-connected device to bring to school. Lyneham High is committed to a teaching and learning program that is delivered in a way that ensures every child can learn.

When can my child use the electronic device at school?
Students may use their electronic devices in class as instructed by the teacher. It is not expected that a particular teacher will need students to use electronic devices every day. Students may use their electronic devices during classroom instruction, recess, lunch, when in the library or when otherwise instructed by school personnel.

What if we can’t afford a device?
If you are having difficulty funding the purchase of a suitable device for your child, because of financial hardship, please contact the Principal to discuss your situation. The school is finalising options for families that include an option to be pay off the cost of the device over a period of time or long term loans with a security deposit. The school undertakes to provide a device for student use while at school in order to ensure equity of educational opportunity.

What are the Hardware and Software Considerations?

What types of computing devices may my child bring to school?
Students may use devices under BYOD that fall into the following categories: (1) laptops, (2) netbooks, (3) tablets, and (4) e-Readers. In some instances, depending on the task required, teachers may allow smartphones to be used. The device must be able to connect to the Lyneham High WiFi network or to the internet via an outside provider. However, if you have not yet purchased a device for your student, the school recommends that you consider purchasing a Chromebook as these are the most suitable devices for school use. Costs of these vary but a suitable device can be purchased from $250 upwards.

Are there suggested accessories?
Providing a padded bag or protective sleeve is suggested. This will provide more protection from the day to day use of these devices. A headset or headphones with, or without, a microphone will be useful when accessing a website with audio and/or video. If using an iPad or other tablet device a keyboard may be useful for extended writing tasks and/or homework.

Will there be "charging stations" so my child's electronic device can be recharged?
We expect students to have their device fully charged at the start of the day. Not every class will be using an electronic device in a lesson every day. Considering today's electronic device battery technology, the device's battery charge should be sufficient for lessons requiring use of the device throughout the day.

What software will be needed on my child's computer?
No software needs to be purchased. We do encourage you to install Google Chrome as the Internet browser. Google Chrome is a free Internet browser that supports the use of GAFE. Lyneham High currently encourages the use of GAFE for student work. This is a web-based file storage system providing many productivity tools including an online learning portal, word processor, spreadsheet, and a presentation program. Students will be able to use these capabilities provided by their Lyneham High account, through GAFE, rather than purchasing software. In the future we will provide parents with information that allows students to sign up to Microsoft 365 to give them access to a free version of Office 365 on up to 5 of their own devices.

Will students be able to print documents from their personal computing devices?
Students will be able to access printers at Lyneham High from their personal computing devices using Google Chrome. We will provide other alternatives such as printing capabilities from school provided desktop and laptop computers, and as part of the electronic delivery of documents through Google Docs sharing, email or other online methods.

Where will my child's work be stored?
Students will be encouraged to store their work on their GAFE accounts and to keep backup copies on their own personal storage devices, eg USBs. In so doing, the student will have access to their work wherever they have internet access.
Who is Responsibility for the Device?

Who pays for the technology brought to school?
These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family.

How much will I have to pay?
At the moment there are a multitude of suitable devices available from suppliers at a range of prices. We have found quite suitable and reliable devices, that will fulfill the school’s requirements for as little as $250 - $300, eg ASUS 11.6” Notebook with Windows 8.1 or a Toshiba CB30 Chromebook.

Are there group/bulk discounts available on the purchase of devices through the school?
We have looked into this as an option and made enquiries with a few vendors. The prices they have offered, while reasonable can be bettered by commercial retailers, e.g. JB HiFi, Harvey Norman etc. Therefore the school will not facilitate a bulk purchase of devices.

Who is responsible for any repairs or updating to personal computing devices?
Students and/or their families are responsible for their personal computing devices at all times. Lyneham High does not have the technology support staff to repair or update personal computing devices but will undertake to get the device connected to the school WiFi network.

Who is responsible for damage, loss, or theft of devices your child brings to school?
Families must stress the responsibilities their children have when bringing their own computing devices to school. Any devices students bring to school are their sole responsibility. Most home contents insurance policies offer cover for those portable items if specified and paid for within the policy. Lyneham High takes no liability for damaged, lost or stolen personal computing devices. The school provides lockers at a small cost which is where we encourage students to store any items of value including electronic devices. There are now sufficient lockers in the school for every student.

Will the family need to have Internet access at home?
No. It would be helpful, however, to have some form of Internet access (wired or wireless) in order for a child to make full use of school resources from home, as well the multitude of resources available on the World Wide Web. Therefore it is not required in order for a child to use a personal computing device at school.

Does Lyneham High School suggest any other considerations?
It may be wise to acquire insurance to cover loss or damage of the personal device outside of the home. Discuss with your child the appropriate care and use of the device while at school. We recommend that students do not lend their devices to other students. While there are filters on the school’s network, students need to be aware that some inappropriate content may still be downloaded and the consequences if they are using unfiltered internet (such as that provided by personal SIM cards installed in a device) of the potential to download inappropriate content.
What will be the impact of BYOD on teaching, learning and student development?

How much “screen time” at school will a student experience with BYOD?
There is no simple answer to this question as it is dependent on a huge number of factors such as teaching style, current student habits and lifestyle as well as the type of viewing experience for the student in the classroom. Some “screen time” in class will be using the device to write or create a piece for discussion and/or assessment. At other times this will involve viewing of pictures or video to support learning and/or communicating with peers and teachers about the work being covered in class. It should be noted here that there will be a lessons where students are unlikely be using a device, for example during active physical education activities. Students will also be part of class discussions, debates and presentations by peers, guests and teachers. BYOD will never replace the student-teacher or student-student relationship.

Can we stop students constantly using their device during non-teaching time at school?
The short answer is no. Turning off the Wi-Fi during breaks and before/after school is not a feasible option as the technicalities are complex as well as personnel dependent. Also, to do this would impact on the productivity of both staff and students during those times. The school promotes through its well-being and health programs the need to be active and sociable with peers. We also encourage students to work collaboratively in and out of the classroom whether they are using technology or not. The school is in the process of setting up Maker spaces in the library and elsewhere to engage students in creative and collaborative tasks outside of class time to help build social and collaborative skills.

How will the school monitor the effectiveness of BYOD compared to more traditional teaching styles?
As part of ongoing professional learning for teachers we have created Professional Learning Communities (PLC), one on BYOD, another on GAFE. Each has a small group of teachers from various areas of the school. During semester 1 these PLCs looked at how to introduce to the school their respective themes and also undertook the collection of pre introduction data. This data will be used as a baseline to compare the effectiveness of using BYOD and GAFE in the future. These PLCs have and will continue to work with similar groups at other schools so acquired knowledge and processes are shared and evaluated at both the school and the system level.

Will BYOD mean my child will be more susceptible to cyberbullying at school?
Given the already extensive use of personal phones on the school’s WiFi system we do not believe BYOD will make students more susceptible to cyberbullying. Bullying can occur anywhere and at Lyneham High we tackle this issue with prompt action when issues are reported to us. There are also extensive well-being and health programs being delivered across the school addressing the issue of bullying, including cyberbullying. The year 7 computing course which all students complete also addresses this specific issue.

Where can I get information and advice on issues relating to cyber safety and the use of ICT?
There are a number of issues that concern parents around the use of ICT by their children. Rather than detail them here we recommend that your start you search for information and advice by viewing what is available at the following sites set up for this purpose. These have been produced by ACT and Commonwealth authorities:

Office of Children’s eSafety Officer (Commonwealth)
Keeping Safe Online (ACT Education & Training Directorate)

Once the school has completed its revision of its BYOD and Personal Electronic Devices (PED) policies these will also provide additional advice and information when posted on the school’s web site in the near future.

**How secure is students’ work and information using GAFE and other online resources?**
The Education and Training Directorate has undertaken extensive reviews of access to information placed with Google and Microsoft in regard to using their online resources for education. Reference was made during this process to both the ACT and Commonwealth Privacy Acts. Further details are available at:

**How will students learn how to use this new way of learning and use of ICT?**
Collaborative and ICT based learning is not new to education or the ACT. A number of our students already come to this school with experience, skills and knowledge of working this way from their primary school experiences. To ensure that all students have a common baseline of knowledge and skills we have set up PLCs for staff to acquire their own expertise and use it with their classes. This is a gradual process and will be an ongoing one as staff and students learn new skills and the technology changes. The year 7 computing course includes specific instruction to students on how Google Classroom operates. This process includes using the platform to access resources including quizzes and assignments, submit assessment items and view/provide feedback from/to the class teacher.

We understand that no Q & A document is ever going to completely answer all questions that might be asked. We therefore encourage you to contact us, using the school’s contact details if any further concerns or questions.