

Tuesday 30 June 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Year 12 Device Requirement

As part of our strategic drive to prepare our students for a digital future, we use computers/devices throughout the senior school. The use of devices enables us to enhance and personalise student learning, to improve educational experiences and to use our resources in a more environmentally friendly way. We aim to blend the best of digital (online) and traditional (offline) teaching and learning, so that lessons use technology to innovate, creating opportunities for even more interpersonal contact and collaboration.

There are five key benefits to using digital devices to enhance and transform our teaching and learning for the twenty-first century:

1. **Organisation** – student notes, lesson resources, feedback, and extension links, are all organised into one place, making revision easier. No more lost folders or books.
2. **Accessibility** – students will be able to access a record of their learning, in a way that meets their needs: anytime, anywhere.
3. **Collaboration** – students can work together in multiple modes quickly, easily, and efficiently.
4. **Personalisation** – resources and feedback can easily be adapted and personalised based on the needs of students, and students can personalise and add to their notes anytime, anywhere, as the OneNote page is endless.
5. **Sustainability** – as an organisation, we will reduce our use of paper, wastage and photocopying costs, by utilising and leveraging digital tools.

For students joining Year 12 in September 2026 we are taking a Bring Your Own Device ('BYOD') approach and allowing students to bring a device of their choice.

For us to be able to apply the appropriate filtering to the device when it is in school, a small security certificate will need to be installed. This allows us to apply web filtering to the device when it is connected to School Wi-Fi but does not give us any visibility of the device when it is away from the School site. Details of how to install this will be shared with your child at the start of term.

Students may bring a Windows device, an Apple device (an iPad or MacBook), or a Chromebook, providing it has a reasonable screen size (11 inches or larger), a keyboard, and wireless connectivity. We cannot apply filtering to Linux devices so these are not permitted. Beyond that, we encourage choosing a device that will be suitable for the subjects being studied. For example, if studying a creative subject, a device with a touchscreen and stylus might be beneficial. If studying subjects involving a lot of writing, something with a solid keyboard might be helpful. We strongly recommend ensuring that devices are covered with Accidental Damage insurance or checking whether accidental damage is included in your home insurance.



We understand that many students already have a personal device they can use, however if you need to purchase a device for September and would like any guidance or suggestions on suitable devices, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at rhagon@habselstree.org.uk.

In the appendix below you will find answer to some frequently asked questions, which I hope you will find helpful.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Rob Hagon
Director of IT

FAQs

Are devices used in every lesson, every day?

Not necessarily. We see devices as an additional tool in lessons to enhance, and in some cases transform, students' learning experiences. Teachers use their professional judgement to choose the most suitable activities, offline or online, to support excellent learning of each topic. Teachers continue to value the importance of handwriting, speaking and listening, and offline collaborative and practical work. Sometimes the devices will be used to record the outcomes of offline work, such as using photos, video, or audio recordings.

How do devices impact the use of hard copies of textbooks and paper resources?

Teachers are increasingly making use of high-quality online resources, subscription resources and digital textbooks. Using devices means that departments can reduce the use of paper and exercise books in favour of digital work where it best suits the needs of teachers and learners. There are huge benefits to the flexibility and organisation for students here, as well as a positive impact on our environmental footprint. Work that is completed on paper can be captured and stored electronically alongside digital learning. No learning is lost, everything is synced and backed up to the cloud.

However, we still see a clear role for some paper-based textbooks in many departments in the future and have no current plans to stop using them in class altogether.

Handwriting is still important for life (as well as exams); how is this impacted by the use of devices?

Handwriting remains a priority.

The quantity and frequency of handwriting will vary according to the needs of individual subjects, but we have a clear focus on maintaining handwritten work within the curriculum.

Students in Year 9 and above may take notes in class using their stylus. When appropriate, students can write class notes on paper, for example, when they are answering longer answer questions in extended writing subjects, but a record of the 'offline' paperwork can then be photographed and embedded into the appropriate OneNote page, which acts as the single point of reference for each subject.

How do devices equip students with the skills they need for the future?

The world is changing faster than ever. New technology is creating new industries, changing existing ones and transforming the ways things are made. According to Microsoft, "Within the next two decades, 90% of jobs will require some level of digital proficiency."

At Haberdashers' we believe that creating strong digital working habits, high levels of digital literacy and an awareness of their personal digital footprint, will support our students in their future professional journeys and enable them to make a profound impact in a digital world.