2017 BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) POLICY

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you to all of you who attended the Parent Information session last week on the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy, and for all of the subsequent feedback that we received. It was reassuring to hear that, while there are understandable implementation concerns to be addressed, there was great support for the educational outcomes that the BYOD policy seeks to achieve for our students.

The School Board takes very seriously all of the concerns raised and last night discussed each of them. As a result of your feedback, and the discussion at the School Board, we have put the following measures in place:

The BYOD Policy will not apply to Pre-Primary students and parents should not purchase iPads for these students. All year 1 to year 3 students are encouraged to have an iPad, with the recommended specifications, for the start of the 2017 school year.

The School Board remains concerned about the costs to parents of purchasing iPads for year 4 students, and recognises that successful implementation of the BYOD Policy in years 1-3 will allow existing school iPads to be redistributed amongst the year 4-6 classes in 2017. However, the Board understands that there is considerable parent interest in extending the policy to year 4. To effectively determine this interest, the school will be sending out a survey to parents in the next week to gauge support for including year 4 in the BYOD Policy for 2017.

Please note that whilst the year 5 and 6 students have access to iPads and digital technology skills will be taught and developed in a shared environment, predominantly they will transition to laptops in preparation for High School. Sets of laptops will be provided by the school.

Security of iPads at school and at OshClub will be addressed through specific policies, and tightening existing security procedures. E.g. Locking classrooms and using existing lockable spaces.

We understand the concerns about ergonomics and the implications of screen time and are sourcing professional development for teachers, around the physical handling and duration of use of the iPads. In addition we will provide information to parents on ergonomics, screen time, and mobile device behaviours. The first parent information session will be held at the end of this month. (Date to be confirmed)

2017 will be an important year for transitioning the school into phase one of the digital technologies learning area of Western Australian Curriculum and getting our students ‘future-ready’. We welcome your support for this Policy, our focus is on getting its implementation right, and remain open to further feedback, comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely

Donna Snow                          Nigel Hindmarsh
PRINCIPAL                          SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

8 November 2016