



Device Recommendation

We believe that by allowing students choice within certain guidelines helps increase the sense of ownership and engagement with their device and therefore their proficiency in using it.

A “Full” Operating System

Whilst we have promoted choice for our students, we have some minimum requirements, and that is for a “full” operating system. This means:

- Microsoft Windows
- Apple’s MacOS

This excludes Operating Systems such as Apples’ iOS (iPhone), iPadOS (iPad) and Google’s Android (commonly found on various tablets and smart phones) or Chrome OS* (chromebooks).

If a student device has a full operating system, then generally they can overcome most software compatibility issues that may present themselves.

It also means that our teachers can plan with confidence that the student devices will support certain applications or file formats they choose to use. Additionally, students at Otago Boys’ High School qualify for a free copy of Microsoft Office -- desktop version and online version. This is another reason to be using a “full” operating system. Though most learning is done using Google Workspace (Gmail, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Classroom) which is all web based.

*NOTE: While it’s preferable to have a device with a “full” Operating System, Chromebooks have gained wide adoption in many schools, especially in intermediates. If your son already has a chromebook, then it is perfectly acceptable to use that while in his junior years and depending on subjects, into Senior school as well.

Recommended Hardware Specifications

If you are considering purchasing a device independently, you should be looking for the following specifications:

Operating System:

- Microsoft Windows 11 Home/Pro
- Apple MacOS

Storage:

- 256GB minimum SSD (Solid State Drive)

Memory /RAM:

- 8GB minimum, 16GB recommended

Processor CPU:

- Intel Core Ultra or AMD Ryzen series recommended for Windows laptops
- M1 or higher recommended for MacBooks
- **NOTE:** Snapdragon (ARM based) processors; Beware that these are currently not suitable for students doing Media Studies, Design and Visual Communication (Graphics), Digitech as a lot of applications are not compatible with ARM based processors. If not requiring specialized software, then they should be fine.

Screen Size:

- 13" minimum
- 15" maximum

Networking:

- Wireless 802.11n/ac (WiFi 5) or better
- Laptop must support 5Ghz wifi

Battery Life:

- Ideally six+ hours on a single charge

Other Recommendations

Device should have a 3-year warranty. Most devices typically only come with a 1-year warranty, ask your retailer about a 3-year warranty.

Important: Talk to your insurance provider on insuring the device for accidental breakage and theft while at school and travelling to and from school.

For more detailed specifications please refer to the full BYOD Recommendations document.