



ROUSE HILL
ANGLICAN COLLEGE



*Senior School
Technology Program*

Senior School Technology Program

In this document you will find information and answers to questions you may have about the Senior School Technology Program at Rouse Hill Anglican College. The program has been at the College for many years although we have made small changes to the program over time. All students in the Senior School are expected to bring a device with them to the College as a part of the normal learning routine.

If you have further questions which are not covered here, please do not hesitate to contact the Director of Teaching and Learning or the College IT Department with your enquiry.

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THE PROGRAM

Q: Why have a technology program?

A: The College Technology program aims to support the development of skills in communication, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and digital citizenship. Using a range of different platforms, students learn to engage respectfully with others, to critically evaluate research materials and to represent their learning in a variety of forms.

Effective management of devices is a skill our young people must develop as devices have become central to many aspects of our day-to-day lives. Through the Technology program, students learn to take responsibility for their interactions online, make safe and considered choices about access to online materials and to manage screen time and distractions.

Q: Who is affected by the technology program?

A: All students in Years Seven to Twelve are involved in the program.

Q: Where should I buy a device?

A: The College does not specify or recommend a particular shop or provider. An external purchase complying with the College's recommended specifications can be made at any number of local retailers who can supply devices including Apple stores, Officeworks, Harvey Norman, JB Hi-Fi, and the Good Guys.

"Learners in the internet age don't need more information. They need to know how to efficiently use the massive amount of information available at their fingertips – to determine what's credible, what's relevant, and when it's useful to reference."

- Anna Sabramowicz

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Q: How will the devices be used in class?

A: The over-arching objective for the program is to transfer the ownership of learning to students by providing them with the opportunity to collaborate, communicate and research on a global level in real time. Currently our teachers deliver various teaching styles which range from setting specific online tasks to giving open-ended tasks where students are expected to find the solution however they can. With the use of technology this becomes more fluid and prevalent. The two primary portals used by the College to deliver content to students in classes are both web-based. All students are given access to our Learning Management System Canvas as well as a Google Drive account for collaboration, content storage and email management.

Q: What effect will the program have on textbooks?

A: The College has implemented eBooks in various subjects across all year groups. At the same time we issue physical textbooks. The benefit of using an eBook is a reduction in weight for student bags as well as the ability to use any interactive content while still being able to use paper textbooks for homework.

Q: What effect will the program have on written work?

A: The College uses a blended learning environment meaning that a range of learning activities will be used. Depending on the type of activity, written work may be used. The teacher will decide on format is best suited for the task and will clearly communicate this to the students. The College

will not remove the use of handwriting in class as this is still an essential skill, however, classwork and homework/assessments may include both elements of digital and handwritten content.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Q: What types of device should students have?

A: Students are expected to have a laptop or other tablet device, for school each day. The devices will supplement the classroom teaching and use the power of the internet to enhance learning. Students will have access to the World Wide Web, the College Learning Management System "Canvas" and cloud based storage through Google Drive. These tools allow teachers to assist students in developing independent, creative and collaborative learning skills. Students can also access electronic copies of their text books for many of their subjects, thus alleviating the need for students to carry heavy books to school. Using the electronic texts will also provide students with the opportunity to make annotations and highlight text as they work in class. Students will also be able to easily engage with technology based assessments and can collaborate in groups on tasks. Students have already developed some of these skills through their time in early high school with iPads.

There is a wide array of devices that meet the specification requirements. Some people may prefer to purchase a device tailored to their own needs and likes. Others may already own a device that complies with the College's specifications.

Q: What are the College recommendations?

A: It is difficult to outline minimum specifications in a broad Bring your Own Device policy as the needs of students will change depending on subject choices and personal preferences. Those who are upgrading from an iPad device should consider their possible needs for the future and are encouraged to speak with subject coordinators and teachers about the types of devices students use in their elective subjects in senior College years.

Rouse Hill Anglican College does not promote one vendor or device type and most families appreciate this flexibility. Devices that students have reported as suiting their needs at the College include the; Apple MacBook, Microsoft surface, Chromebooks and HP/Dell i-5 or i-7 notebooks.

Q: What software should my child install?

A: The majority of the learning that occurs in classrooms requires students to be able to access the internet through the College network. These learning tools are 'cloud' based and therefore require only an internet browser and connectivity; they do not require students to install software. The two primary ways students access, create and save content is using "Google Drive" and our Learning management System "Canvas". Devices that utilise apps may require free software to be downloaded in order to access these services however most devices access these services through an internet browser.

The College utilises email printing which requires students to use their school web based email address to print items. The printed material must be sent as a PDF and so we recommend students install a PDF program such as Adobe Acrobat if they wish to print at school using their device. Textbooks that are available as digital content are also accessed as PDF versions.

Much of students' work undertaken using their devices will include word processing, data analysis, presentation design and viewing and desktop publishing. Every student's Google account includes a suite of applications that can handle these tasks. As such it is not necessary to buy productivity software such as Microsoft Office for your child's Mac or PC and this remains as an option of your choice.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Should my child download songs, games, movies and other media on their device?

A: While connected at College, students should be browsing the internet and downloading resources for educational purposes only. All access to Internet resources, email, copyright, etc on Technology devices is governed by the College ICT Acceptable Use policy. Generally, the downloading of songs etc. would be in contrast to the above guidelines, and the College ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

At home, parents will need to govern this type of activity as they see fit. The College recommends that devices are kept free from potentially distracting material such as games, songs and movies.

Q: What are the minimum requirements?

A: We have included a set of minimum requirements and functionality below. We have also outlined recommended specifications to help parents choose the most suitable device. In most cases, if you purchase a new personal laptop computer it will meet these specifications.

Specifications	Recommended	Adequate
Screen Size	13" or greater	10" (i-pad size)
Connectivity	Wi-Fi to access College Network 802.11 G or N	Wi-Fi to access College Network 802.11 G or N
Sound	Earphones and device microphone	Generic earphones
Power	Portable battery charger Long Battery life for school day	Battery powered
Keyboard	External Physical keyboard	External Physical keyboard
Cover	Protective case/bag	Protective case/bag
Identification	Engraved identification	Clearly Labelled
Operating System	OSX, Windows, Chrome	Latest operating system (E.g.: iOS and Android)
Web Browser	Chrome latest version	Updated latest device version
Antivirus software	Yes	Yes
Free software	Adobe PDF	PDF software

Q: Should I buy insurance?

A: The security of the device rests with the individual student; as such Rouse Hill Anglican College takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices. While College employees will help students to identify how to keep their devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their devices. You may wish to check your homeowner's insurance policy regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many of these policies can cover loss or damage.

Q: I have an old laptop at home; can I give this to my child to use?

A: Students do not need to have a brand new computer to use at the College although things such as battery life can be an issue with older machines. We recommend that the device your child brings to College is as new as possible. Any device must meet our minimum requirements and be as functional and reliable as possible.

Q: What happens if my child's device malfunctions or is broken?

A: The College IT staff will provide technical support related to the connection to the College wireless network and Internet. This will take place initially during the Connection Day as well as ongoing throughout term time.

For hardware issues, you will need to contact a computer Technical Support service or the company where you bought the device. Unfortunately, the College IT staff cannot attempt to repair personal devices, as this could invalidate warranties.

Students who have a temporary issue with their device are able to borrow a College laptop for the day from the College library and should do so at the start of the day. This service is provided for the day only and is a short term solution for students experiencing temporary issues with their own personal device.

CONNECTIONS

Q: Will the College provide WIFI 24/7?

A: The College will provide wireless internet connection to students while on the premises during business hours.

Q: Will there be web-filtering?

A: When students are on College premises and connected to the internet through the College's WIFI network, web-filtering will be engaged. Whilst no web-filtering solution is perfect, the College will do its best to prevent access to inappropriate websites detected to contain age-restricted material, potentially harmful material or illegal content. In addition, Facebook and other social media sites not deemed to be of educational value, will be blocked whilst on site. When your child is connected to the internet at home, employing web-filtering will be a decision for parents to make. A suggested solution to help set internet boundaries at home can be found at <http://www.kidsblocker.com>

Q: Will my child be able to use mobile connections instead of the College WIFI network?

A: Students must only use the College's WIFI service to connect to the internet whilst on College premises and must not use 4G/5G for their device. 4G/5G connections can become very costly and are not subject to web-filtering. If purchasing a new device, it is our strong recommendation that no mobile web enabled devices are purchased.

DAY TO DAY USE AND SUPPORT

Senior School Technology Program

Q: What do we do about printing?

A: Students will be able to print directly from their Personal learning device in some cases. Students may also use the College computers to do their printing using their normal College login details. Instructions regarding printing are available on the College Wiki.

Q: Will there be means of charging the device at College?

A: Personal devices must be fully charged before school each day and run on battery power while at school. We strongly recommend you purchase a device which has a substantial battery life so that it lasts the full school day, however, there is a charging station available in the College Library for students to top up their devices if needed during breaks.

The Technology Program is an exciting opportunity for Rouse Hill Anglican College students to commence their Senior School studies in a way that will enhance and build skills for the future. Should you have any questions about the program, please contact the Director of Teaching and Learning who will assist you with your enquiry.