10 September 2015
Dear Parent/Caregiver

Re: 2016 Take-Home Laptop Program

The Take-Home Laptop program has allowed our students to access technology 24/7/365 to enhance their learning. The provision of these laptops was made possible by the commonwealth government’s National Secondary Schools Computer Fund (NSSCF). With the government decision not to continue this funding, there are no more laptops being provided to replace the ones we were have had in service over the last 4 years.

Our take-home fleet of laptops will come to the end of their warranty and accidental insurance coverage in November this year. (We will continue to honour the Charter Agreement and ensure that any repairs undertaken until this year’s agreement ends on December 11, are at the tiered excess of $50, $100, $150.)

This will mean that these machines will go into their 5th year of service next year. They will have no coverage for repairs due to accidents, wear and tear or breakages. Reluctantly, we will provide these machines for those who desperately need our support in their child accessing a laptop for their learning. The conditions under which we hire these laptops will change, and given their age, the number available for hire will drop dramatically. We think that, of the 403 laptops currently under hire, around 250 will be available for hire in 2016.

The hire cost will be lowered to $100. This will provide a 4 year old laptop, with no SIM (3G internet) and no insurance. Ongoing technical support and software licencing are provided. The current insurance (with the 3 tiers of excess) will be replaced by a model where you pay full price for repairs, as follows:

- Screen - $100
- Charger - $40
- Keyboard - $40
- Hard Drive - $50
- RAM - $40

Repairs to the motherboard, hinges, plastic case or underlying chassis will not be undertaken, due to the high cost of these repairs, and the laptop will be deemed unrepairable.

Most replacement parts will be second hand, in order to keep the cost of repairs as low as stated above, and other parts of the laptop that are not required for it to operate (eg the camera) will not be repaired.

If the laptop becomes unusable or unrepairable during the hire period we will either:

- Replace it with another laptop, if there is one available (unlikely), or
- Refund the hire fee - pro rata.

To undertake a laptop hire, parents will need to be up-to-date with the current school fees and be in the first 250 to sign up and pay for their 2016 fees and laptop.

The alternative is to be a BYOD family. We will be holding a BYOD parent information night in Week 3 next term (Wednesday 21 October). We will explain the array of devices that you can choose to be your BYOD — for example we are currently investigating a small tablet that costs under $200 (admittedly, with limited capability) and a great “all-rounder laptop” for around $500 (Most retailers offer payment plans, and this would be equivalent to paying the $125/year over 4 years). We hope to have some of the big retailers on-site during the evening, for you to be able to engage with.

Remember, if you wish to continue to hire one of our ‘Take-Home’ laptops, you need to sign-up and pay early, as we will have limited numbers of laptops available.

Regards,
Scott Ison
(Principal)