



*'Achieving Excellence'*

# FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

## 'A COMPUTER FOR EVERY STUDENT' STRATEGY 2016

Revised 4/11/2015

### Context

- Used appropriately, computers are a powerful tool (particularly when supported by the various functions of an Information Management System (IMS) such as our Compass system, quality learning packages and well-selected web-based resources) to foster the desired personalisation of learning and the increased learning outcomes needed by all students for them to reach their potential.
- For computer-based learning to be effective, access needs to be one-on-one and 24/7 for all students.
- Consequently, for our teaching and learning to be fully successful at Fairhills, we need to put in place arrangements which provide one-on-one, 24/7 computer access for all students in Years 7-12. These arrangements need to be simple, efficient, secure and at reasonable costs to parents. To meet these requirements, Fairhills has carefully developed a 'one-stop-shop' Computer Package which is available to all of our students.

### Our strategy to achieve a one-on-one allocation for all students Years 7-12

1. The Fairhills Package provides all students with two Notebook computers over the six years they have at Fairhills (in year 7 and again in year 10) but they need to be funded by the parents as the state government does not provide any funding for this purpose.
2. The Notebook (and its software) remains the property of the school to ensure standardization of hardware, software, warranty, GST requirements, theft insurance and servicing. Because the school is purchasing the computers, the GST can be claimed back by the school which helps to keep the costs down for parents.
3. At the end of each three year period, the computer becomes obsolete and is appropriately disposed of by the school
4. To access the new Notebooks in year 7 and again in year 10, parents will need to pay to the school on both occasions a Computer Package Fee of **\$570** (used to purchase the computer and its carry case and contribute ~ \$130 to the backup Tech services (including the theft insurance, warranty courier service, technician's salary etc.) before the computers are allocated to the student.
5. Lower income families who have Health cards (approximately 25% at Fairhills) may be eligible for the Federal Government 'School Bonus', currently set at \$800.
6. Students who transfer to another school part way through Years 7-12 will return the computer and receive a pro-rata refund of the Computer Package fee. By doing this we will create a pool of second-hand Notebooks (see #7 below).
7. Students who transfer into Fairhills during Years 7-12 may be able to pay a reduced fee for a second-hand Notebook (if available) so that they remain in the same replacement cycle as their age cohort.(see #6 above).
8. The Notebooks are purchased from the manufacturers with a standard M/S operating system and a software suite called EduStar to which we add a Japanese script program. The school has the necessary licenses only while the computer is regularly used by students enrolled in the school. The O/S and Edustar software is automatically disabled when we dispose of the obsolete computers at the end of the three years.
9. Full documentation is provided including an Acceptable Use Agreement, Financial Agreement and User Handbook

### Questions & Answers

#### **Q1. Can I provide my student with a computer directly (BYOD –Bring your own device) and not pay the computer package fee?**

A1. Yes, but we do not advise this option because: (i) your computer may not meet the requirements for it to be connected to the school system (ii) you would need to source and load the Edustar software yourself from the internet (iii) no on-site technical support would be available at school, so you would need to organise it yourself somewhere else (iv) you lose the financial benefit we can provide by bulk purchase discounts, theft insurance and no GST (v) repairs will often be more expensive and involve longer delays (vi) teachers will be less able to assist your student with technical problems in class. A set of recommendations for BYOD computers is included for those parents who wish to provide their own computer.

#### **Q2. What happens if my child's computer is vandalised, lost or accidentally damaged?**

A2. We expect each student to take good care of their computer, but if damage occurs, the parents will need to cover the costs..

#### **Q3. What happens if my student's computer is stolen either at school or elsewhere?**

A3. You will need to fill in a police theft report and send it to the school. There is a \$100 excess payable by the parents for each insurance claim. We recommend the use of a security cable while the computer is in use and locked storage in the student's locker at other times. They should not be left in bags in the change rooms for PE lessons.

#### **Q4. What happens if I don't pay the computer fee in Year 7 or Year 10?**

A4. All teachers will plan their lessons assuming all students will have their own Notebooks. We don't want any student to be disadvantaged by not having a Notebook, so please talk to us so we can jointly resolve the issue. In 2015 almost 100% of year 7 students had a computer.

#### **Q5. What happens if my student's computer battery goes flat?**

A5. Modern Notebooks have 6 hour batteries. We expect all students to recharge them each night (like they do with their mobile phones). However we recognise that there will be an occasional lapse. When this occurs, the student is expected to do the work in class as best they can (taking written notes, sharing a friend's computer etc.) and then catch up the work at home that night. We ask parents to ensure that their students develop the habit of recharging every night.

#### **Q6. What happens if my student's computer stops working?**

A6. The student takes the Notebook to the I/T office (open before and after school, recess and lunchtimes but not during class time) for a brief check. We have a warranty arrangement with the supplier if failure occurs in the first 12 months. If it is a software problem, the technician

will clear all the software and reload the EduStar package. Students can then reload all their documents from their Portfolio space or memory stick. In the meantime the student does their work in class as best they can (taking written notes, sharing with their friend etc.).

**Q7. What do the students do about printing hard copies?**

A7. With our Compass IMS (Information Management System), hard copies will be needed less often. However, each classroom provides wireless connection between each student’s computer and the student printer in the library. Copy costs are billed to the student’s pre-purchase account to ensure responsible use.

**Q8. Do we still have to buy textbooks if our student has a Notebook?**

A8. More appealing, interactive e-books are being developed and are predicted to replace some conventional textbooks over the next few years. This innovation, as well as achieving increased student engagement, will reduce the hassle of transporting heavy textbooks around and is also likely to reduce booklist costs for parents in due course.

**Q9. Why do we ask parents to assist the school by paying the computer fee by December?**

A9. We purchase the Year 7 and 10 computers before the end of the year so that during January the technicians can load the software, individualise each one (serial number, password, name label etc) and check they are working, ready to be distributed to students in the first week or so of term 1. Consequently the school needs to have the money before Christmas to pay the \$100,000 bill. Parents are provided with an invoice by early term 4 and can assist the school by making the early payment either in full or by 3 credit card deductions (15<sup>th</sup> of Oct, Nov, Dec). If a parent waits to pay the full amount in February, there may be some delay in having the computer ready for their student to pick up (as we will need to put in a late order to the supplier).

**Q 10. Doesn't the Commonwealth Government provide all senior school students with a free computer?**

A 10 It did this for about three years as part of the ‘Digital Revolution’ but this arrangement ended in 2012. When we were notified that government funding would cease, School Council decided to support parents and students by replicating the ‘years 7-9 computer package’ arrangements with a second ‘years 10-12 computer package’ for a similar cost to year 10 parents.

**Q11. Has the school considered leasing the Notebooks rather than direct purchase?**

A11. Yes but our research shows that this would cost parents more money in the long run (interest to the hire purchase company). At an average of \$190 per year over the six years we consider our arrangements to be a very good deal (both educationally and financially).

**Q12. How often will my student use his/her computer in class?**

A12. This will vary for different subjects and different levels but students will need to bring them to all classes (unless otherwise informed by their teacher). As you would expect, it takes time for teachers to learn new skills and develop new computer based lessons. Students will notice a gradual increase in usage over the next several years. Teachers are expected to average at least 1 computer-based learning task per timetabled period in most subjects.

**Q13. I can buy a Notebook more cheaply at Harvey Normans. Why doesn't the school buy them there?**

A13. The computer itself may possibly be cheaper but it may have lower specifications, be less robust, and it certainly won't have theft insurance, a fully comprehensive software package and on-site technical support. See the attached sheet for a detailed cost comparison.

**Q14 Has the school considered supplying an i-pad instead?**

A14 Yes we have, but an i-pad is not a full computer. Although easy to use, an i-pad does not provide students with a full range of computer features nor the experience and practice in computer skills which are important for the students’ academic success. It is now possible to purchase ‘hybrids’ which are a computer and i-pad combined with all the benefits of a touch screen. However these are currently over \$200 dearer so we have decided to delay their introduction for at least a year until they have dropped to a more affordable price.

**Q15. How much will it cost to have my computer repaired?**

A15. It depends on which parts need to be replaced. Here are the approximate costs (including labour) for the most commonly required items.

Repair costs (parts plus Labour) by our dealer 'J B HiFi' (updated 15/9/15)		
Common Replacement Part	2014 Lenovo 131e Notebook	2015/2016 Lenovo 11e Notebook
Keyboard	170	158
Motherboard	325	513
LCD Screen	310	296
Palm Rest	170	161
Base Cover	165	164
LCD Cover	155	143
Hinge Kit	140	N/A
Replace serial number sticker (warranty)	10	10

**Q16 Can I keep using the old first computer after the three years have elapsed and not pay the replacement fee for the next 3 years?**

A16. Yes, but we don't recommend this. The computer remains the property of the school but there is no warranty, no repair service, no theft insurance, limited availability of spare parts and technical assistance with software issues will cost \$30 per event. Once it stops working sometime over the next 3 years, we will collect it back, dispose of it and ask the parent to pay the standard computer package fee so that we can order a replacement. So in the longer term it is unlikely that there will be any financial savings.

**Q17. Will there be any changes to these arrangements?**

A17. Yes, it is likely because this is a cutting edge initiative with limited precedent. We have described how we presently see it working but as it is implemented we will be adjusting to any changing circumstances and looking for ways to further improve it. We will keep you up-dated. If you wish to obtain further information or provide any feedback about these arrangements, please write or phone the principal on 97585022.



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## FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER FEE : COST COMPARISONS

Revised 16/9/15

Sometimes parents ask if they can provide their own notebook computer rather than pay the Fairhills computer package fee. Below we have set out the reasons why we believe that the Fairhills option is overall less expensive, more convenient and less problematic.

Feature	Fairhills	Self-Supplied
Computer Specifications	Lenovo 11e Notebook Computer 4GB RAM, full size keyboard Strengthened Case, 11 inch screen	Equivalent PC Notebook Computer
Computer Cost	Computer Package cost is \$570 (no GST is payable)	Equivalent computer costs vary. The likely range is \$400 to \$600 plus GST
Warranty	1 year	Usually only one year with each extra year costing approximately \$40
Protective Carry Bag	Included	Costs vary depending on type -allow approximately \$30
Operating System	Windows 8 Professional (to be upgraded to 10) No cost to parents	Windows 8 Professional (upgrade from basic) approximately \$200
Software	EduStar: over 100 different programs including full Microsoft Office provided free and loaded by the technicians	The Edustar suite can be downloaded from the web at no cost for enrolled students
Antivirus	System Centre Endpoint Protection No cost to parents	Various brands approximately \$80
Repairs	On-site technician (3 years) No charge for software or warranty issues. Hardware repairs at competitive rates (see pricelist)	Off-site technician –parents need to organise when needed. Costs vary
Theft Insurance	No premium to pay (just a \$100 excess if a claim is made)	Insurance premiums vary or parents pay for replacement if stolen
Wireless and Internet access at school	Currently no cost to parents	Currently no cost to parents
Total for 3 years	<b>\$570</b>	\$_____ (Your calculation)

1. All repairs to Fairhills computers are conveniently completed by an on-site technician, which allows students to more quickly resume their work on computer. On-site technicians are unable to work on BYOD privately owned computers.
2. The EduStar software package includes over 100 different programs including the full Office Suite. All of these can be downloaded free from the internet by any BYOD students but the school provides them to Package students automatically and instantaneously and they are easily reloaded by the technicians if there is a software problem.
3. School Council policy allows BYOD computers to be connected to the school wireless system and to the internet. We now have available, sophisticated security software to protect the system from potential virus threats, the use of illegal software or other inappropriate student use such as downloading movies.
4. Prices of Notebooks vary depending on many factors such as features, brand, size etc. We understand that from time to time sales and specials will seem enticing, however once all additional costs and conveniences are taken into consideration, we think that the Fairhills computer package presents a very favourable option for students.
5. If you would like to discuss the matter further, please don't hesitate to contact the Principal.



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# FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

## COMPUTER FEE 2016-2018

The Package Fee set by School Council is \$570 which provides the computer, a carry case and support services for 3 years (internet connection, a one year warranty, theft insurance, technician support, EduStar software (over 100 programs), wireless connection in all classrooms, access to printers etc.).

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options:

- 3 equal monthly B-Pay instalments on 15<sup>th</sup> October, November & December
- 3 equal monthly credit card instalments on 15<sup>th</sup> October, November & December
- Pay in full immediately by:
  - B-Pay
  - Credit Card
  - Enclosed cheque
  - Enclosed cash
- OR
- Pay in full on the following date / / (before December 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - B-Pay
  - Credit Card
  - Cheque to be sent later
  - Cash to be paid later to the office
- Pay in full at the start of the school year

Comment \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT CARD DETAILS

MASTER CARD/VISA EXPIRY DATE: /

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Please debit my credit card for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**BPay DETAILS. The reference number is provided on your individual invoice but you still need to return this payments option sheet so that we know which option you are choosing.**

An itemised receipt will be issued for taxation purposes.

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL BY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**



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COMPUTER FEE 2016-2018

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options:

Pay in full immediately by:

B-Pay

Credit Card / EFTPOS

Enclosed cheque

Enclosed cash

OR

Pay in full on the following date / / (before December 14<sup>th</sup>)

B-Pay

Credit Card / EFTPOS

Cheque to be sent later

Cash to be paid later to the office

Pay in full at the start of the school year

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE GENERAL OFFICE WITHIN 3 DAYS SO THAT WE KNOW HOW MANY COMPUTERS TO ORDER BEFORE CHRISTMAS

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

MASTER CARD/VISA EXPIRY DATE: /

Please debit my credit card for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

BPay DETAILS. The reference number is provided on your individual invoice but you still need to return this payments option sheet so that we know which option you are choosing.

An itemised receipt will be issued for taxation purposes.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL BY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

September 2015

Dear Parents

I am writing to you because our records indicate that your students' school notebook computer will be three years old by the end of this year and close to being obsolete. As we indicated to you at the time that you paid your 3 year Computer Package Fee, the school would provide you with the opportunity to return the computer after 3 years and be provided with a new one for the next three years. The cost of this change over has now been reduced to \$570 to cover the following costs:

- \$440 – computer and carry bag (no GST)
- \$130 – 3 year back up support service including 1 year warranty, theft insurance, 5 day/wk access to school technicians to deal with software and warranty issues at no further cost and on-site repairs for accidental damage at set spare part repair rates.

Although these three year old computers will be considered by the school to be obsolete by next year, yours may still be working reasonably well. However the support services will have expired, the computer will gradually be getting slower and it will no longer be worth repairing/replacing if it develops a hardware problem, is accidentally damaged or is stolen.

**The recommended solution is to upgrade to a new Lenovo I1e computer with higher specifications and the on-going support services current for another 3 years.**

Please find attached a copy of our 'A Computer for Every Student Strategy 2016' document which provides updated information and a set of commonly asked questions and answers. Please refer particularly to Q9, Q10 & Q16.

Also attached is an options return sheet providing three payment options:

- i) Pay the full amount in a lump sum any time up to December 14<sup>th</sup> (see Q9)
- ii) Pay in 3 monthly instalments commencing the 14<sup>th</sup> **October**
- iii) Pay as a lump sum at the start of next year (some delays may occur in receiving delivery from the suppliers).

We acknowledge that this is a significant cost to parents (see Q10) but it does provide a cost effective and hassle-free way for parents to provide their students with 24/7 computer access.

Overall, this up-front fee corresponds to \$190 per year.

We ask that you complete the Return Slip and return it to the General Office by the 14<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to discuss the matter, please phone/email our eLearning Coordinator, Jenny Oliver or myself.

Yours sincerely

Harvey Wood  
Principal



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## FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL FAIRHILLS GUIDELINES FOR THE BYOD OPTION 2016

Revised 4/11/15

Dear Parents

A small number of parents choose to provide their own computer (BYOD). We again emphasise that while parents have a right to do this, we strongly recommend that parents participate in the school package instead for all the minimum hassle reasons mentioned in Question 1 on the information document (copy enclosed).

However for parents who decide to supply their own computer, we provide the following advice:

1. Do not provide an Apple – we have constant compatibility problems with our network
2. Do not provide an Android or Chrome device – they do not work on our network
3. Do not provide an iPad – these are only glorified smart phones and do not have a range of computer functions which may be required in class (see question 14)
4. Do not provide a top of the range computer. Currently we have a theft rate of about one per year probably because they are all the same. Top of the range computers will attract attention and probably be more susceptible to theft. There is no theft insurance for computers not owned by the school.
5. The case needs to be a sleeve or small padded bag similar to the one provided by the school. Larger computer bags are not permitted in class for reasons of Health and Safety.
6. The anti-virus program is required to be System Centre Endpoint Protection which is downloadable free from the internet.

If you need any further assistance, please contact our e-Learning Manager, Jenni Oliver on 97585022.

Yours sincerely

Harvey Wood  
Principal