

‘Bring Your Own Device’ at King’s

We have been working with our current school supplier, to provide the best possible purchasing options for our families, which may be of interest to many parents who are new to the scheme or who would like to replace a current device. Although many will be looking to find a device for the start of September, please do note that it is possible to purchase a device through the scheme at any time in the year.

Why BYOD?

First and foremost the introduction of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Scheme is about the pupils’ learning and achievement. It is not about the technology. BYOD means that the focus is on task and output rather than the brand of device, and we are mindful that pupils may well already have devices which are suitable for accessing technology in school.

We believe strongly that devices will enhance the excellent teaching and learning that is already happening in our classrooms, rather than replace it. It is not our intention to move away from the more “traditional” methods of learning, but to provide access to the most appropriate method for each learning activity – using technology alongside class discussion, written and practical work.

Your daughter is living in a world where access to technology as an aid to learning is becoming more and more important, as is digital competency in the world beyond school, for which we want to prepare them as fully as possible. Appropriate, and safe, use of technology will allow the pupils to get the most from an already rich curriculum. In recent years there has been a huge increase in the quality and availability of electronic educational resources, and we use these extensively at King’s. From subject-specific packages like Linguascope (MFL), Digital Theatre (Drama) and ArcGIS (a Geography package) through to the increasing amount of material shared online by our teaching staff, these resources enhance every girl’s learning.

For many learning activities pupils relate to - and enjoy - using contemporary technology both at home and at school. However, they also need guidance and support to use this technology constructively and safely, and to make considered choices. We believe that the benefits of accessing enhanced technology for our pupils are powerful, but equally important is the time we invest to educate the pupils on becoming digitally literate and digitally safe throughout their time at King’s.

Please note that all the communications about BYOD may be found on the school’s website: [Digital Learning](#)

The information on the school website includes:

- BYOD and Blended Learning Brochure – detailing how Blended Learning is being implemented across our departments.
- BYOD IT applications available at home (including the core systems of Office 365 and Classlink)
- BYOD Help and Support (detailing ongoing support available for pupils and parents)
- Other policy documents relating to the BYOD scheme

Specification of devices

For reassurance, we recognise that some pupils will already have a device that is very new but which might not fully meet our specification guide. For example, it may not be touchscreen. Pupils in this situation can bring their current device in to school, provided that the rest of the specification is met. However, we would then ask that when her device comes to the end of its lifetime, the replacement does meet the specification fully. In the interim, we will support those pupils with non-touchscreen devices and provide access to

shared school devices when necessary. If you have any queries about the device specification, please email itremotesupport@warwickschools.co.uk

The device specification can be found here: [BYOD Device Specification](#)

Purchasing through the school recommended supplier

Our supplier is L.E.A.D., offering a competitively priced, robust device that allows pupils to work effectively using the key IT systems over the coming years: <https://www.warwickschoolsbyod.co.uk/>

Installation of software on the device

All pupils new to the BYOD scheme will receive a “BYOD introductory lesson” in the first days of September, to ensure that they can successfully access the core school applications. We have also posted support pages and guides on the school BYOD webpage that explain where to access any of the required software and how to install it. Apart from these core software applications, your daughter is free to install any legal software on her machine, although we would recommend that this is kept to a minimum in order to ensure the continued effective use of the device.

Please note: it is possible for our students to install the Office suite of applications on to a maximum of five devices using their school account (see the document: [BYOD Applications at home](#)).

Accessories for the device

A set of headphones (any variety including small “in-ear” headphones) will be needed with the device in school so that pupils can watch and listen to audio and video files. They will be especially useful in languages lessons for example, where listening and speaking exercises will be used regularly.

We would **highly recommend that your daughter keeps her device in a protective case** to limit the risk of damage.

Insuring the device

The 3-year warranty, provided in the price for the machines above, **does not cover accidental damage and so parents may wish to ensure that the device is covered by a third-party insurance product.**

This may be your home insurance, or you may want to choose specific, device-related cover. Alternatively, you may wish to look at Gadget Insurance as an option – please see the appendix for further details.

Keeping your daughter safe on the internet

As part of our commitment to helping your daughter develop her digital literacy skills, we will be providing a range of learning activities focused on the safe, effective use of her device. In addition, the school implements a range of security features that aim to protect your daughter whilst she is using the device on the school network.

Frequently asked questions

When should we buy a device for our daughter?

The System Active purchasing portal is open throughout the year and we would recommend that your daughter has her device over the summer holidays in order for her to become comfortable using it. It would also afford her time to set up the core applications which will be needed for her school work.

To ensure that the device arrives in time for the start of the academic year, we recommend that you order your device by the end of July at the latest.

Will the portal remain open to buy a device next year?

Yes, the portal will remain open throughout the year so that families can purchase devices as they are required. Devices bought after the deadline for delivery to the school will be delivered to your home address and incur a £10 delivery charge (NB. School collection not possible this year)

What happens if the laptop is stolen or damaged?

We aim to teach your daughter how to look after her device and keep it safe. Nevertheless, accidents happen, and it will be important that our pupils have access to a device. We have devices available during school hours that can be used by your daughter if there is an issue with her device, and there are desktop devices available around the school that compliment this provision.

What core apps need to be installed on my daughter's device and where can I get these from?

Central to the BYOD programme are the Office 365 suite of applications which are available via the web browser. However, you can install the core Office 365 apps (such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint) on to your daughter's device from her school Office account. Her school account allows for the installation of the Office suite on to a maximum of five devices. Most other apps will be available through our Classlink platform. Details of all core apps that must be installed and how to install them, along with help guides to support you and your daughter, are available on the BYOD page of the school website.

Can I install additional software on to the machine?

Yes, the device belongs to you. The aim of the BYOD programme is to enable your daughter to develop her use of digital devices in ways that support her and her individual learning.

Can I buy a laptop from the high street or online instead?

Yes. You are free to purchase and use any device that meets our minimum device specification. One of the drivers for our move to a true BYOD programme is the recognition that every girl is an individual, with her own needs and interests that may require a different type of device to the ones we have recommended above.

Optional Gadget Insurance

Optional Gadget Insurance offers protection for multiple devices, like smartphones, laptops and tablets for the cover of theft, loss (this may cost extra), mechanical breakdown, and accidental damage, including liquid damage and cracked screens

If you decide to purchase optional gadget insurance, check to see if you are already covered by:

- **Your contents insurance:** If you have worldwide accidental damage cover, your device may be protected when it is out of your home.
- **The manufacturer's warranty:** If you only want to protect against mechanical breakdown and your device is still under warranty, the manufacturer will pay for repairs or replacement if they stop working.
- **Your packaged bank account:** If you have a reward bank account, check if it comes with basic insurance for your mobile device.

If your gadgets are already insured on another policy, check you have the protection you want. For example, some policies do not cover accidental damage.