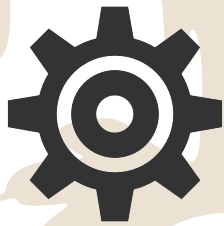


Digital Learning at King's College Taunton



King's College
TAUNTON

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Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Digital technology is now part of our lives and has changed the way in which people communicate and engage with each other and the world. Its importance in the future lives of our children will continue to grow and we need to educate them to use the technology effectively.

Most schools have tried to devise strategies to embrace the opportunities and manage the challenges of digital technology. Some schools, for example, have given iPads to all pupils. Some are now realising the limitations of this system and, instead, are adopting the BYOD approach, which is what we propose for King's College pupils from September 2016.

How will BYOD improve learning?

Teachers need to prepare pupils for the information-rich and globally-connected working community they will inhabit. Most pupils are already rather good at using these devices: sharing pictures, communicating, finding information and saving to the cloud are all, in most cases, a natural part of their lives. We intend to build on this existing expertise and bring it into the classroom.

BYOD will allow pupils to learn and work in a way that combines the best of both worlds: the expertise of our teaching together with the independence that comes with access to the internet. While knowledge is still essential, increasingly it is the higher order skills that we need to foster: the powers of analysis and evaluation, of application and creativity. Universities and future employers are looking for people who can use and evaluate knowledge critically and effectively. BYOD will be another tool available to teachers to enable our pupils to develop these skills.

Some examples of how BYOD will be used:

- In art, pupils will be able to use Pinterest to gather images as part of their research.
- In chemistry, slow-motion filming will be used to record reactions and enable pupils to review them in their own time.
- BYOD will enable geographers to access digital maps and to replace data on a satellite image of the location of their fieldwork.
- Biologists will capture data on plant growth, building this up over weeks to illustrate the development of a species.
- English pupils will analyse poems collaboratively using OneNote.
- Modern linguists will be able to film each other speaking their target language.
- Pupils in DT will use their devices to research and present their ideas.

Challenges

The BYOD approach will, of course, bring with it a number of challenges. We are aware of these and have taken steps to deal with them effectively:

- Pupils will be guided to exercise good judgment when assessing the reliability of online information.
- Pupils will be educated to conduct themselves in a responsible and appropriate manner online. We believe that teaching pupils to be responsible ‘digital citizens’ is an essential aspect of 21st century education.
- The school has planned for the technical challenges posed by the presence of a large number of devices in school. The wireless network has been upgraded, for example, and can now support 2000 devices simultaneously.
- Teachers are discussing and exploring effective ways of incorporating digital technology into their lessons, led and encouraged by a team of “Digital Champions”.

Technical Requirements

We require each pupil to bring to school a device which will be able to:

- Connect to the school’s wireless network;
- Browse the internet and work with proxy servers;
- Transfer documents to and from the school’s network;
- Process and create common document formats such as Microsoft Word;
- Provide a large enough display for viewing documents;
- Edit and create text easily (a proper keyboard is advised);
- Run for a minimum of four hours on one battery charge.

Storage and Security

We strongly recommend that all pupils carry their books and digital devices to and around the school in a bag or case of some sort. This could be a briefcase or a sturdy book bag. We will be encouraging pupils to use bags and would ask you to support this idea as well. Bags and cases must be in good repair and free of inappropriate images or slogans.

All pupils have access to lockable cupboards in their houses.

All pupils are encouraged to label their devices clearly and indelibly.

ICT Requirements – Suggested Options

There is no advantage to having a top-of-the-range machine costing £2000. A £250 branded laptop would be perfectly suitable. Buying a less expensive model and replacing it after three years might be a better policy, as technology moves on quickly and a machine bought in three years' time is likely to be faster than even the most expensive model bought today.

Many operating systems such as Windows and Android have been designed with touch screens in mind, therefore these will function more easily when that device has a touch screen (not all do).

Here are some examples of devices that would be appropriate for pupils' use:



Microsoft Surface or other transformable Windows PC
£250 - £800



Apple MacBook
£800 - £1400



Windows laptop, ideally with an SSD which improves drive and battery life.
£220 - £600



iPad or Android tablet, with additional keyboard.
£140 - £600

We suggest that antivirus software is installed on all devices. Free options from Microsoft or AVG are available.

Our internet is continuously filtered using industry-standard systems, so that access to unsuitable websites is unlikely. In addition we filter out the use of some social media sites (such as Facebook and Hotmail) during the working day.

Insurance

Laptops and tablets, but not phones, are covered by the insurance scheme offered to all parents. Please see www.kings-taunton.co.uk/media/54/7154-pupils-personal-effects-insurance-mt15.pdf for further details. Parents who have decided to opt out of that policy will need to make their own arrangements for insuring their children's devices. The school will not accept liability for the loss of or damage to a digital device.

Maintenance

The maintenance and repair of devices is the responsibility of parents. The ICT Department will help pupils with minor technical problems where possible. However, they are not able to carry out repairs.