

E-Learning and BYOD



Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School staff are excited about the opportunities that a **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** approach offers our students. We recognise that the world is changing and that opportunities for different learning methods have been created through the rapid development in ICT worldwide.

Our school mission statement, which is the same as the vision of the New Zealand Curriculum, is to foster young people who will be “confident, connected, actively involved and lifelong learners”.

In the 21st century, E-Learning is becoming fundamental to enabling this vision.



Curriculum subjects are increasingly relying on a wide variety of online learning tools. However, no matter how many computers we place in classrooms, there are still restrictions on staff and students from making full use of these learning tools.

This is why we introduced BYOD at our school.

We wish to create a more accessible, diverse, and dynamic learning environment for Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School students, one that reflects the world we live in.

There are many advantages for students bringing their own ICT devices to support their educational needs. A student-owned internet capable device can be an important part of a student’s educational toolkit, providing them with instant access to unlimited resources and enabling them to support, extend, communicate and share their learning in a way that will prepare them for the future.

Some advantages of **BYOD** include:

- Anytime, anywhere access to class resources, support and extension activities through Google Apps for Education.
- The ability to develop digital folders and work for their classes (that can’t be lost, are always accessible and never need replacing) through cloud computing.

- Being able to develop a portfolio of student learning using cloud applications.
- An increased ability to communicate and interact with teachers, parents and peers electronically to support their learning.
- Anytime, anywhere access to unlimited educational resources and information on the internet.
- The ability to collaborate with other students in real-time.
- Allowing students to become active partners in their learning.
- Enabling students to enter and explore new learning environments, overcoming barriers of distance and time, facilitate shared learning by enabling students to join or create communities of learners that extend well beyond the classroom.
- The creation of supportive differentiated learning environments by offering resources that take account of individual, cultural, or developmental differences.
- Enhancing opportunities to learn by offering students virtual experiences and tools that save them time and allowing them to take their learning further.

Cell Phones

As you may be aware the Government introduced regulations in 2024 that require all state schools to put in place school rules regarding the use of phones. The regulations require that schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunchtime and breaks. This includes students who are on a school course or visit outside the school grounds.

International research indicates that phones in schools are not conducive for learning and for student wellbeing. Therefore, these regulations have been put in place to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.

All student cell phones must be handed to their teacher for storage in the class safe. Students are not permitted to use their cell phones during morning tea, lunchtime and on our school site before or after school unless supervised by a staff member.

If you believe your child needs a cellphone at school, please write to The Principal for your child to have permission to bring a phone to school. If they are granted permission, the school protocols for cellphones at school will apply.

In order for this to be effective and not to disrupt our learning programmes we ask parents/caregivers to speak to their child about these rules and reinforce the expectations of the school.

Next Generation of Learning

Early evidence suggests that young people who learn with portable devices are more engaged with their learning as they use technology which is not necessarily there in the traditional classroom setting. In today's technologically connected world, it is how the next generation expects to engage in their learning and to communicate in the workplace. Our focus is on how we integrate new technologies appropriately and so that every student has equal and fair access to it.



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) IN 2024

In 2024 we encourage all students to bring their own Chromebook to school and we have a goal that all year 8 students will have their own Chromebooks by 2024.

Where students do not wish to bring their own devices, they are able to access our school computers and Chromebooks as part of the school curriculum. Any software or applications used on the school devices are provided at no cost to students. Students who choose not to bring their own device will be able to carry out the same functions on school computers and Chromebooks as other students who have their own device by liaising with their teacher.

Where students do wish to bring their own device to school, they will be able to access the school wireless network from any class they are placed in. Students bringing their own device do so for the purpose of learning. They are able to research on the internet in class on their personal device, carry out interviews, create videos and other applications, use the device as a calculator and to access their work online. The reason students choose to bring their own device is for the convenience of access and having a personalised device available exclusively for their own use all of the time.

We offer students access to a range of learning support programmes such as Word chain, Read & Write, Mangahigh and our digital library. By having their own Chromebooks with head phones, students can maximise their learning from these applications funded by the school.

Please note: In all classes, Chromebooks are used in a blended learning situation where 50% of a student's time may be spent using the device for creative production with access to the internet. The other 50% is used blending in paper-based tasks such as writing, forming mathematics algorithms, oral activities and other creative tasks where a device is not necessarily the best tool for learning.

There are no fees charged for devices brought into the school by students and they will be assisted to connect to the school ICT network.

In all BYOD situations, the school will take all care but no responsibility for the care and security of devices brought into the school. All classes will be locked when students are out of the room. Insurance of the device will be the responsibility of the student and their family.

Many local retailers are providing educational pricing and there will be a number of specials offered leading up to the Christmas holidays. Many retailers also offer finance options where families are able to pay off their device over a period of time. Where we feel a supplier is offering a good deal for our parents we will pass on their details through our school website and newsletter



What Will My Child Need if Bringing Their Own Device?



Not all students are in identical situations for BYOD.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School recommends **Chromebooks** to students who wish to bring their own device to school as these are required for year 9 by all Tauranga state secondary schools.

Technical Requirements

Wireless Adapter

All students will need to connect to our network wirelessly. Wireless technology inside Chromebooks has progressed considerably and modern devices are now much more efficient.

All Devices need to be named in a way that easily identifies the owner of the device across the network.

Battery Life

It will not be possible for the school to provide charging facilities for hundreds of students due to Health and Safety concerns - a battery that lasts for seven hours of sustained use is highly useful.

Which Device?

Go for a ruggedized Chromebook if your priority is exceptional battery life, highly focussed productivity, and continuity with Ōtūmoetai College cloud computing. The device must also be able to connect to Google Classroom.

See this link: https://edu.google.com/intl/ALL_nz/workspace-for-education/classroom/

If you have a “recently purchased” device, it should be able to connect to our wireless as BYOD.

Devices older than three years may have difficulty.

Laptops and Other Tablets:



Android devices have historically been difficult for customers at times. Windows and Apple devices are generally easier to work with, however, some cheaply made PC laptops have poor wireless cards, so have unreliable wireless. We do not recommend laptop computers or Tablets and will not provide any technical support for non-Chromebook devices.

Our recommendation: choose a well-made Chromebook instead of a \$500.00 to \$600.00 cheap windows laptop (you get what you pay for).

We use Chromebooks across all classrooms and recommend them for general BYOD for the following reasons:

- Automatic updates
- Speed
- Reliability
- Cloud storage/back up
- Ease and speed of restoring
- All day battery life
- Ties into our school Google domain
- Cost
- No viruses
- They seem to just work
- Affordable ruggedized models
- Less distractions
- Students are more productive when using them
- Students prefer them over iPad minis

What Could a Student's BYOD Day Look Like?

Charging

A student will need to start the normal BYOD day the night before - each student will need to take responsibility for having put their device to charge overnight so that it has a full charge for the next day. If a student runs out of battery during the day, they will need to be prepared to use pen and paper until the device is charged again. School loan Chromebooks will not be available in these circumstances.

Security

Each student will be responsible for keeping his/her BYOD device safe from damage and safe from theft. The school will not be able to repair the device so it will be much easier for the student to look after it than damage it and have it repaired. Insurance will be the family's responsibility.

In the cases where students are not able to keep their device with them (such as Physical Education classes), security arrangements will be available to keep all devices safe from theft / weather / etc.

Backing Up

Backing up data is a key skill for anyone who uses computing devices. We will teach students the different options available for backing up work to protect against instances such as damaged or stolen devices. Each student will be provided with a Google account - this will allow them to keep all their work backed up 'in the cloud' which is probably the safest form of data backup for schools.

The Flipped Classroom



One of the styles of learning that **BYOD** makes possible is the 'flipped classroom'. Instead of the student learning something in class and following up for homework, the flipped classroom operates in the reverse - the teacher will ask students to prepare for the next day by using their BYOD device to maybe do some reading or possibly complete a 'prior learning' exercise. The flipped classroom will allow the teacher to use the lesson to *build upon* student learning, rather than *begin* student learning.

Conclusion

The development of mobile devices provides schools and other educational providers with an opportunity to shift learning to a student-centred approach where students are able to learn anytime, anywhere and at their own pace.

For the first time in history every student will have access to global resources through the internet and be able to communicate and collaborate in real time with others across the world.

We see this as an exciting time and an opportunity to prepare our students for their future careers. Even now workplaces are being transformed as businesses and government departments embrace the new technologies to improve what they do.

Our school is recognised as a progressive and leading school in New Zealand and we invite you as parents to join us on this next stage in our 21st century pathway.

Henk Popping
PRINCIPAL