9 September 2016

Dear Parents of Year 11 students

RE: BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Initiative for 2016

As part of our strong and ongoing commitment to 21st Century teaching and learning, Walcha Central School will be initiating our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in Term 4, 2016 for Year 11 students.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) refers to students bringing a personal technology device that students bring to school to use for educational purposes under the direction of a teacher. For the purposes of BYOD, ‘device’ means a privately owned wireless device such as a laptop or tablet.

The school will provide the ability to connect compatible devices to a filtered DoE internet service which will provide safe, secure internet access for students.

There are many reasons to go BYOD at Walcha Central School. These include:

- bridging the gap between school and home.
- a platform to provide learning intentions and success criteria.
- personalised and differentiated learning and a variety of methods to produce quality pieces of work, accessibility and options to adjust to learners’ needs.
- augmenting best teaching practice by redefining and modifying what students can do.
- allowing students more control of their learning.
- building student organisation skills and sense of responsibility.
- engaging students.

Equity concerns have been raised and are integral to the BYOD initiative at Walcha Central School. Not every family can afford a device for their child/children, and as such, students can continue to use school pool (Lenovo) devices.

For successful access to the DoE internet, strict adherence to device specification is required. These are set out below. We encourage you to refer to the device technology specification sheet when purchasing your device. Students will be using their device primarily to access the internet, complete set work using Google Apps for Education, as well as using other web-based applications.
Please Note: Walcha Central School has made the decision that mobile phones/ smart phones are not supported by the school BYOD Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Criteria</th>
<th>More details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating System Versions</td>
<td>• Windows 8 or 10 laptop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Chrome OS (for Chromebook laptop)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mac laptop with OS X 10.9 or newer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• iOS 8 or newer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A case or sleeve for a laptop is essential. A good quality case for the iPad is also required. A keyboard is also highly advisable for tablets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Browser</td>
<td>Google Chrome must be installed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Google Chrome is available for devices listed. Apps for iOS are also required (free). These are Google Classroom, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets and Slides and can be downloaded from the App Store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Size</td>
<td>Min 9.7 inch (iPad mini size is sufficient if a keyboard is attached)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A wireless keyboard is required to maximise screen use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WiFi</td>
<td>Wireless Connectivity is key to BYOD devices in schools! Devices must support 5Ghz dual band wireless or 802.11 a/b/g/n (Make sure it supports both ‘a’ and ‘n’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Our school supports both 2.4Ghz and 5Ghz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battery life</td>
<td>6 hours battery life</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: there will be NO charging of devices allowed due to WHS issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Up to date anti-virus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chromebooks have built-in security.</td>
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Please visit the above link to be guided on suggested devices. However, Chromebooks have proven to be cost effective (approximately $300), excellent battery life, speed and functionality.

Below is an overview of the key points for students, parents and school roles in the BYOD initiative:

**Student Responsibilities:**
- The student takes full responsibility for his or her device. While every effort will be made to ensure their security, the school and its staff take no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to the device either at school or in travel to and from school.
- The student will be responsible for the proper care of his or her personal device, including any costs of repair, replacement or any modification needed to use the device at school.
- The student is responsible for charging their device prior to bringing it to school. It should be capable of running off its own battery while at school. Desired battery life is 6 hours minimum.
- The student will use the school’s filtered wireless network. Mobile phones are not considered BYOD devices. Use of 3G and 4G wireless connections are not allowed. If your device has a SIM card, parents are required to store the SIM at home.
Storage:
1. We recommend that each device is housed in a sturdy case for protection.
2. The student will need to take their device home each night so that they can be charged.
3. Provision for BYOD devices to be stored in class storerooms during lunch and recess breaks at student request.

Usage
1. When at school, the student should only use their device to access classroom related activities.
2. The student will comply with teachers’ requests to turn off the device for learning purposes.
3. Students should not take photos, video or sound recordings of other students and members of staff without their knowledge and consent. They are not allowed to transmit or post photos, video or sound recordings taken at school without the express permission of a teacher.
4. The school reserves the right to inspect a student’s personal device if there is reason to believe that the student has violated school policies, school rules or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal device.
5. Violations of school or class rules involving a student's’ personally owned device may result in disciplinary action.

More information about our BYOD program is available on the school website – walcha-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/parents/byod

BYOD is part of an evolution of technology use and our school is leading the way. We look forward to working with the students and parents as we continue this exciting new initiative with Year 11 students during term 4 2016.

Please find attached:
   Suggested BYOD Devices
   Device specifications checklist
   Student agreement – signed and returned to Mr Taylor by Friday 23 Sept.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Hall
Principal