Introduction

Information and Communication Technology is an integral tool in modern society. Technological skills are required for all students as they prepare for life in an ever changing and adapting technological workforce. At Weeroona College Bendigo our eLearning vision is that we become a virtual learning environment where teaching and learning is fully supported by digital means; where students can manage their learning and curriculum pathways, teachers can plan collaboratively, and parents can access and monitor student progress.

In pursuit of this vision a number of key programs are implemented:

- Weeroona Learning Support Dashboard - our web based Learning Management System allows Teachers, Parents and Students to access up-to-date information regarding attendance, conduct, learning resources, assessment and reporting.

- Bring a Specified Device program - ensuring that every student has their own device to allow them to participate in all aspects of communication, learning and assessment.


- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) pilot project.

- On Demand Literacy and Numeracy testing.

We are continually striving to integrate learning technologies to offer all students the best learning opportunities possible.

As teaching and learning increasingly depends on our use of technology we recognise our responsibility to ensure students have the access to appropriate technology and are trained in how to use it effectively to meet educational and personal goals and outcomes.
At Weeroona College Bendigo we have gradually implemented our BSD program since 2014. In that time we have learnt many valuable lessons relating to the use of various devices for learning and how to best administer this program.

After much reflection and evaluation of current programs we have decided from the beginning of 2016 to limit devices for new students to Windows based devices. This will provide all students with access to:

- A consistent learning experience for all students.
- Consistent high level educational support.
- Use of new and innovative technological learning experiences and programs.

Further benefits include:

- Better access to Google Services which integrate with the Weeroona Learning Support Dashboard.
- Improved tech support when trouble shooting technical problems.

From the beginning of 2016 we will limit devices for new students to Windows based devices.

### Purchasing Devices for 2016

We have redesigned the purchase process for 2016 to better support families and students in both the initial selection and purchase of appropriate devices and after sales support in regards to warranty and insurance claims.

**Warranty claims and damage cause unnecessary inconvenience and costs for families**

Each year of the program we have found that all Year 7 students arrive with devices keen and ready to learn, then over the course of the year some of these devices suffer damage. Whether a warranty or an insurance claim, this often becomes a significant inconvenience. Generally warranty claims require devices to be returned to the place of purchase during business hours and without insurance damage can cost a significant amount of money for repairs.

To ensure that every student has a quality device at a reasonable price and improve the quality of after sales support we have chosen to partner with Learning with Technologies (LWT). This company specialise in providing technology sales and service to schools. They facilitate the purchase, distribution and after sales support of devices. The advantages in families purchasing devices in this manner are:

1. Families select a device from a list of devices pre-approved by the college so you know that the device will work.
2. Three year onsite warranty - all warranty claims can be processed and repaired at the college by LWT certified technicians. This means less hassle and time wasted for families
3. Insurance options - insurance can be purchased to protect against accidental damage with repairs carried out onsite by LWT certified technicians.
4. Devices delivered to your door.
**Purchase Portal**

During Term 4 a purchase portal will be made available via our college website for all 2016 Year 7 student families. We will communicate with all families when the portal becomes available. Families simply access the portal, select their chosen device from those listed and pay. When selecting a device for your child, options will be provided regarding insurance, protective cases/bags and optional extras. Purchases are delivered prior to the beginning of the 2016 school year.

**Cost**

Beginning secondary school can be an expensive venture so we have provided as much advanced notice as possible. Cost for devices and options vary. We are aiming to have the cost begin around $750. This equates to approximately $187.50 per year over 4 years. This will include:
- Device
- 3 year on-site warranty
- 3 year accidental damage insurance (optional)
- Bag/case
- Delivery

Exact pricing will be available in Term 4 when 2016 prices have been confirmed by LWT suppliers.

As a college we are able to provide software to reduce costs.
- Microsoft Office 2013 **($169 saving)** - the license allows us to provide this for all students while a student at the college.

**eLearning Levy**

Each year families will also be charged an eLearning Levy. This helps to pay for technical support, network infrastructure and print services.

### Already Have a Device?

Ideally, every Year 7 student and new student will have a Windows device purchased through our LWT online portal. However, our primary goal is that every student has access to appropriate technology, therefore, 2016 will be a year of transition. If you already have a device which you would like your child to use in 2016 we ask that you make an appointment to have the device checked by one of our technicians to ensure that it is suitable. The checklist below lists our minimum specification requirements.

**Windows Device Specifications**

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPERATING SYSTEM</td>
<td>Windows 8.1 or 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCREEN</td>
<td>10&quot; or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMORY</td>
<td>2GB</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIRELESS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARD DRIVE</td>
<td>64GB minimum (flash/eMMC/SSD preferred)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KEYBOARD</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BATTERY</td>
<td>7 hours minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMERA</td>
<td>Preferred</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOUCH</td>
<td>Preferred</td>
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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