



Bring Your Own Device (BYOx) is a pathway supporting the delivery of 21st century learning. It is a term used to describe a digital device ownership model where students use their personally-owned computers at school. At Toowoomba SHS, all students enrolling in year 7 in 2021 will be part of the BYOx program.

BYOx allows better integration of technology in the classroom and seamless movement between classrooms and home. It assists students by improving their learning outcomes in a contemporary educational setting and enables them to become responsible digital citizens. It is proven that BYOx enhances the teaching and learning process and achievement of student outcomes as well as providing the skills and experiences that will prepare students for their future studies and careers.

Device selection

Toowoomba SHS recommends a Microsoft Windows 10 laptop. Apple MacBook is supported however some school software may not be compatible. Google Chromebooks are not supported.

The most important place to start when selecting device hardware is the CPU. Six tiers are described below, starting from the slowest CPU at tier 1 and going up to the fastest CPU at tier 6. Each tier brings an increase in cost. The minimum tier for a BYOx device is tier 1, and tier 3 is the recommended tier. Tier 4 or above are quite powerful and are not required for mainstream subjects, however a tier 4 device may be useful for students studying subjects such as Digital Technologies and Art & Media.

Tier 1: AMD A4-9125, AMD A6-9225, Intel Celeron N4000

Tier 2: Intel Celeron N4100, Intel Pentium 4415U, Pentium 4417U, Pentium 6405U, Pentium N5000

Tier 3: Intel i3-8145U, Intel i3-10110U, AMD Ryzen 3 3200U

Tier 4: AMD Ryzen 3 3300U, Intel i5-8265U, Intel i5-10210U, Intel i7-8565U

Tier 5: AMD Ryzen 5 3500U, Ryzen 7 3780U, Ryzen 7 3700U, Ryzen 3580U, Intel i7-10510U, i5-1035G1, i5-9300H, i7-1065G7, AMD Ryzen 7 3550H, Ryzen 7 3750H

Tier 6: Intel i7-9750m i7-10750H, AMD Ryzen 5 4600H, Ryzen 4800H

Note that these tiers can be subjective and are based on hardware available as of June 2020. If the device you are looking at has a CPU not mentioned above, please contact the Head of Department eLearning if you would like further information.

Once you have settled on the CPU, a minimum of 4GB of RAM and a solid state hard drive (SSD) at least 64GB in size is required. For better performance, it is recommended that the device has 8GB of RAM and at least 120GB solid state hard drive. The device should also be as portable as possible and have good battery life. Touch screen is not a requirement.

The brand of the device is not important. The school is unable to recommend one particular device or brand over another due to our adherence to the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 where we have a “duty to provide advice which is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial”, however you can contact the Head of Department eLearning at the school to discuss possible options. The school is also unable to recommend a particular retailer.

The approximate cost of a device fitting the minimum specifications should be about \$500, and about \$800 for a device fitting the recommended specifications. Be aware that some retailers may attempt to upsell you to a more expensive device – there is no need to spend thousands of dollars on a student device.

If you already own an older device or are looking at purchasing a second hand device, you can contact the Head of Department eLearning if you would like to check to see if it meets the school’s requirements.

Peripherals

Headphones will need to be used with the device. These can be inexpensive (eg \$2).

A mouse (wired or wireless) is required for some aspects of the curriculum where a touch pad is difficult to use.

A strong carry case for the device is recommended to prevent damage in transit.

Software

A student's BYOx device must have a valid and legal operating system. This is usually pre-installed when the device is purchased. Paid antivirus software is not required as antivirus software is built into the operating system.

Students must also install Microsoft Office, which is available to download free of charge by visiting portal.office.com on the device and logging in using the student's school email address and password.

Adobe Creative Cloud is also available to students free of charge and can be downloaded from account.adobe.com by entering the student's school email address, clicking the forgotten password link to set the password, and downloading the Creative Cloud app, which then allows you to install any part of the Adobe suite.

Note that these programs are only available after the beginning of the school year.

Connectivity

BYOx devices can be connected to the school wifi which provides internet at school. Students can also print from their device to designated printers in the school. Home internet connectivity is not provided by the school.

Responsible usage

Students in year 7 in 2021 are required to bring their device to school every day. The device should be charged each night to ensure it doesn't go flat during the day. Limited charging facilities are available in the school library.

Whilst the school can provide lockers suitable for storing devices, the student is responsible for taking care of and securing the device and accessories. Responsibility for loss or damage of a device at home, in transit or at school rests with the student. You should obtain your own advice regarding inclusion in your home and contents insurance policy. It is advised that accidental damage and warranty policies are discussed at point of purchase. You should also enquire about the device warranty and be aware of your rights under the Australian Consumer Law (which generally mean that purchasing an extended warranty is not required).

Students must ensure they have a process of backing up data securely. Otherwise, should a hardware or software fault occur, assignments and the products of other class activities may be lost. The student is responsible for the backup of all data. Students should use Microsoft OneDrive to store all their files, which is provided free of charge. The school cannot monitor student device usage in real time, however all material on the device is subject to audit by authorised school staff if deemed necessary. If at any stage there is a police request, the school may be required to provide the authorities with access to the device and personal holdings associated with its use.

Device hire program

The school recognises that not all families are able to purchase a device outright. In the first instance, you may choose to investigate finance options provided by the retailer that allow you to pay the device off. If this is not possible, the school has the facility to hire devices fitting the minimum required specification for families who can demonstrate financial hardship. The devices will incur a fee per year, which can also be paid in term or semester instalments (hire fee will be confirmed in Term 4, 2020). At the end of the year, you can choose to purchase your own device and return the school device, or continue hiring the device in the following year. At the end of the hire period or when the student graduates or leaves the school, the device must be returned to the school. Any damage to the school owned device will incur additional fees.

If you would like to enquire about the device hire program, please contact the school to make an appointment to discuss this.

If you require further information about the BYOx program, you can contact Richard Kelly, Head of Department eLearning, by phoning the school or emailing rkell1@eq.edu.au