Welcome to BBC’s 1:1 Tablet Program

Welcome to the 1 to 1 tablet program at BBC, in which all boys from Year 7 to Year 12 participate. The purpose of this letter is to provide you and your son with some useful information about the benefits and basics of the program.

Whether your son is arriving at BBC’s Middle School in Year 7 or Year 8, or perhaps moving to BBC in a later grade, he will be supplied with a tablet PC as part of our 1:1 program.

A tablet is essentially a laptop with a touch screen and a pen (known as a stylus), although you will find that there are now many different types of mobile computing devices in the shops that are referred to as ‘tablets’. At BBC, all year 7 and 10 students, as well as all new year 8 students, are issued a new tablet; in 2014 this is the Toshiba Z10T which looks similar to the image shown. As you can see, it is a slate-style tablet with a detachable keyboard and a stylus (not visible in this picture as it sits in a socket on the right side of the device).

This tablet has Windows 8 installed and has an 11.6 inch screen, 128GB of memory, an i5 processor, a 3-year extended warranty and a 3-year insurance policy protecting against accidental damage. It also comes with a “slip” case that should be able to fit inside your son’s school bag.

This tablet is a new addition to the tablet program; over the last 2 years, boys have been issued the HP Elitebook 2760p. Current students who will be in Years 8, 9, 11 or 12 in 2014 will continue to use those tablets.

As your son participates in the 1:1 program at BBC, he will encounter some new facets to his learning, facilitated by the use of the tablet. You may have heard the phrase “21st century learning”, a term coined to denote an approach to learning that is very different from the more traditional model with which we are all familiar. This phrase is beginning to move out of educational circles and into the popular media. I have heard it mentioned on news and current affairs shows on TV and in commentary on radio- especially the ABC.

A major component of 21st century learning is the use of technology of all kinds to investigate, create and communicate; activities through which our children learn to become global digital citizens – able to manage and operate technology in an ethical and socially responsible manner. It is interesting to reflect that, unlike BBC parents, the boys coming into Year 7 in 2014 have never known any other century. Therefore, they only know 21st century learning.
What does this mean for their learning?

There is an interesting connection in that these abilities, skills or fluencies have been incorporated into the ICT General Capabilities included as part of the Australian Curriculum. The use of technology is pervasive in the lives of boys coming into Year 7. They rarely use a DVD player and even more rarely use a CD player, have never known a world without computers or mobile phones, type more than they talk to friends and if they are not already engaged in on-line social networking will soon be asking to be allowed to sign up. In this world, the use of technology as a vital learning tool is inevitable.

Terms and Conditions

As with any program such as this, there are some terms and conditions associated with the use of the tablets. The full document, titled “Student Tablet PC Program Terms and Conditions” can be found at on the BBC website at http://www.bbc.qld.edu.au/assets/files/policies/2013%20Tablet%20PC%20Program%20Terms%20and%20Conditions.pdf

This is a summary of the main points:

- The tablet is covered by a 3-year extended warranty from the manufacturer. This covers failure of the components due to manufacturing faults.
- The tablet is covered by a 3-year Accidental Damage Insurance Policy. This covers the repair of damage to the tablet caused by an accidental event. There is a $100 excess payable on all claims under this insurance policy and all claims are assessed by the certified repairer.
- The full cost of repair of any other damage that is not assessed as being accidental must be paid for by parents.
- In order to satisfy the requirements of the Accidental Damage Insurance Policy, the tablet must always be carried inside the supplied case and should be looked after very carefully.
- All the software required for use at BBC will be installed on the tablet by the IT Services Department. No other software is permitted to be installed on the tablet. This includes non-BBC anti-virus software, games, media players or browsers.
- BBC has an IT Help Desk located on the top floor of the library building. This is where boys should take their tablets for help with hardware or software problems.
- The battery in the tablet should last about 7 hours without needing recharging. Therefore, there is no need to bring the charger to school. This is just one more item to get lost.
- The staff at the IT Help Desk are not authorised to do any mechanical repairs to the tablets. Therefore, if a tablet needs to be sent to the repairer, we will endeavour to provide your son with a loan device. This may be a different brand of tablet.
- All of your son’s documents should be saved into the Documents library from where they are synchronised to his network folder. These files can then be opened on any other computer while at school.
- All boys are expected to use the tablets in an ethical and socially-acceptable way. In particular, cyber-bullying, as with other forms of “real-world” bullying, will not be tolerated.
• All boys should respect the privacy of others. This is especially the case for passwords. Trying to watch another boy or teacher logging onto their tablet will result in a consequence.
• Attempting to hack or disrupt the College’s network, servers or other infra-structure is regarded as a very serious offence and will attract a serious consequence.
• Access to the internet is filtered to protect your son from accessing inappropriate sites. The College’s internet filtering rules will also apply to your son’s tablet when away from the College, eg., at home. The list of web site categories that are filtered may vary slightly from time to time. This list, with any subsequent changes, will be provided to all students and parents at the beginning of each school year.
• As a valuable piece of equipment, the tablet should not be left unattended around the College grounds. It should always be put back in the locker when not being used in class.