



3 April 2019

Dear Parents

We would like to advise you of our new direction from 2020 in Secondary IT. As computers have become necessary in nearly every workplace, they are also necessary in education as we prepare students for life after school. We have had a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy for the last few years, which we have monitored closely to see how well it is working. This has led to a new direction **where from 2020 the school will run a Device Program (as a school-supplied device program), where the school will start supplying Macbook devices at the start of Years 7 and 10 and charging a student IT levy.** This will be compulsory at Year 7, but optional for 3 years at Year 10 so that parents who have just bought new devices can still use those for 3 years if they prefer.

The reasons for choosing Macbooks is that after 4 years of closely observing performance, reliability, battery life and longevity from over 60 various teacher devices and many different student devices, we have come to the conclusion that Macbooks are the best suited devices to the purposes and demands that they will face at Heights. By having all students on the same supplied device it will greatly aid administration, IT help-desk problems, consistency and ease of learning in the classroom.

The IT levy will be spread over 3 years and cover the cost of the computer and protective case and then with a small final payment, students can purchase the computer. The school will supply the software, and ongoing IT help and support for the devices for the 3 years.

We are advising you of this as early as possible so that you can plan accordingly. We will put out more information and details later in the year.

Yours sincerely

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Headmaster

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Head of Teaching & Learning

Russell Hudson  
Head of Student Management