From 2016, Senior School students (Years 10-12) will be able to bring their own computing device to school. This initiative will replace the current requirements for all Senior School students to have an iPad (although they can keep using their iPad if they wish) and allows them to choose their preferred device.

Parents and students should consider carefully which device best suits the student’s learning needs and adhere to the minimum requirements of the College.
### Why BYOD Senior School?
Adopting the BYOD policy allows our students to learn to make an informed decision on which device best suits their learning at Beaconhills, their future tertiary studies and employment. Our Senior School learning systems are web-based and don't rely on specific software as in other sections of the College.

### Why not in other sections?
The College has an age-appropriate approach to using technology. For our younger students, the iPad continues to be the preferred device which is supported by a large range of educational software (apps). It is vital in these early years that our teachers support their students’ use of the iPad and apps. Having classrooms with one device allows our teachers to best support students during this stage of their learning and ensures that the selection of the device does not impact on classroom practices.

### Can students still use an iPad?
Yes, students’ choice of device can still be the iPad. The iPads 2 can still be used and updated to iOS 9 (the most recent software).

### Will my student need to get a particular device based on the subjects they are studying?
No, specialised areas such as Visual Arts, Technology, Information Technology and Performing Arts will still have allocated computer laboratories enabling students to access any specialised equipment or software they need.

### How will this work in the classroom?
Senior School students will be responsible for ensuring that their device is in full working order and capable of meeting the technological requirements of the teacher. Although most of the Senior School learning systems will be web-based via our BeaconNet portal, students may still need to source information for particular subjects and will be given a selection of Apple, web-based or Android apps.

### Does BYOD mean students do not need to follow teacher directions and College rules and policies?
No, all students must meet our ICT Usage Agreement requirements of our network, no matter which device they are using. Failure to do so will lead to consequences, such as the device being confiscated.

### Can I choose not to bring technology?
No, all Senior School students must come to school with a computing device.

### Can my phone be my device?
No, although students can bring mobile phones to school.
Yes, there are minimum requirements that enable the device to connect to our network effectively. Key guidelines include:

Wireless
All devices must have wireless capabilities.

Battery life
The device must be able to remain charged during school hours. It will not be acceptable for students to charge their devices in class. Battery life needs to be able to last between 5 - 6 hours.

Screen size
The minimum screen size should be greater than 7”.

Operating system
All devices must be able to run the most current operating system version.
- iPads must be able to run iOS9
- Android devices must be able to run Android 5.0 “Lollipop”
- Windows devices must be able to run Windows 7 service pack 2 or higher.
- MacBooks must be able to run OS X “Yosemite” or greater

Linux and Ubuntu operating systems will not be supported on our network.

Anti-virus
All Windows and Android devices must have up-to-date anti-virus software. Students will not be permitted onto the network without up-to-date anti-virus software. Free options for students are available from Microsoft, AVG or Bitdefender.

Keyboard
The student’s ability to type at a reasonable speed should be considered.

Warranty and insurance
It is the parent’s responsibility to consider insurance and warranty requirements for their child’s device. The College is not in a position to service hardware repairs. Be aware of the terms and conditions regarding warranty and insurance.

Carry cases and covers
All notebooks must have a proper protective case. Tablets must have an appropriate cover. Cases and covers give real protection against accidental damage that would not be covered by a warranty claim. The best insurance against damage is a protective case.
### Which devices will be supported on our network?

There are certain devices that will be supported on our network. They include:

- iPad 2 - iPad Air
- iPad mini
- MacBook
- Windows notebook (including Windows Surface 2 or above, but not Surface RT)
- Chrome book
- Android tablet

Note: The choice of these devices is subject to satisfying the latest operating system requirements. Devices that do not support these minimum requirements will not be able to be connected to our network.

### What software will students need?

Students will have access to Microsoft 365 (formally MS Office) via their Beaconhills College login. In addition, students must have access to essential apps listed on our BeLearning Lounge. These will list the iTUNES, Android and web-based alternatives for students to select on the basis of their device.

Please note that Bit-Torrent software is not allowed on our network.

### What happens next?

More information about the BYOD program will be released during the course of the year. Senior students who find that their current iPad stops working during Semester 2 and needs replacing are welcome to start using a BYOD alternative to avoid the cost of a new iPad. They will need to contact the College’s IT Department to get connected to our network.

All other students will be able to connect their BYOD device from the start of the school year in 2016.

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You will find more information and updates on the BeLearning Lounge or you can contact Heads of ICTs at your child’s campus.