

Rationale

The Technology Program at Holsworthy High School is designed to ensure equity for all students by providing them with access to technology at school and home to support their learning.

History

As the demand for the use of technology in education continued to increase, Holsworthy High School investigated different ways to address the growing need. At the time, the school had three Computer Rooms as well as computers available in the School Library to cater for approximately 600 students. Students were able to bring their own laptop or tablet to school as part of the Department of Education's 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) program, but this obviously relied on students having access to their own device, making lesson delivery inconsistent and inequitable amongst students. At best, the device would have been used for word processing and maybe internet research, although there were complications with these devices accessing wifi at school. Teachers who were less confident with technology had difficulty supporting students when they had issues with their device, particularly as different students would be using different devices. As a result, the BYOD program never really addressed the technology issues that were faced.

After a significant amount of research, including visits to a variety of other schools, an ambitious plan was developed that would result in every student at Holsworthy High School having access to a device for use at school and at home. As the proposed plan was unique to Holsworthy High School, we commenced an extensive trial which has resulted in a comprehensive program that not only provides every student with a device, but provides ongoing training for students and teachers, technical support and access to a variety of online platforms and applications to enhance engagement and learning.

The Trial

To begin such a program, the first question that had to be answered was which device to use. In 2020, Holsworthy High School trialed the use of two devices to gauge the sustainability for a possible roll out to all Year 7 students in 2021. The trial involved two classes and their teachers using a Chromebook and then an Apple iPad for a term each. Feedback from students and teachers involved in the trial resulted in the Apple iPad being the device chosen. The reasons for this were:

- Engaging lessons
- The ability to use apps and the built in functionality of the iPad to create movies, multimedia, posters, music, art and much more to a very high, and in many cases professional standard, most of which was not possible on the Chromebook
- Almost all students noted that the iPad was much easier to carry in their bags.
- The Apple Pencil (which is a stylus) allowed students and teachers to neatly hand write with excellent accuracy.

- Both teachers and students noted that the teacher was able to monitor their use carefully on the iPad, limit distractions and keep them on task.
- The iPad provided students with a variety of ways to present their work in a student centered model.

More than 95 percent of all students, staff and parents involved felt the trial was successful and should continue.

Once the device was chosen, an extensive amount of staff training was organised to upskill teachers to support the authentic use of the iPads in the classroom. The intention is for the device to be used as a tool for learning, not just for word processing or internet research, and not as a replacement for an exercise book. The school engaged the services of an Apple Educator to work with the entire staff and then individual teachers to plan lessons. She also provided training for students via an iPad 'bootcamp' that is run at the beginning of every year for incoming Year 7 students.

As the program evolved, it became evident that extra logistic and technical support was required. As a result, the school employed a Technical Support Officer and additional administration staff who have become critical to the success of the program. Two teachers have also trained as 'Apple Coaches' to provide ongoing support to staff. Improvements to infrastructure across the school has included updating projectors and installing Apple TV's in every learning space to allow teachers and students to project their work wirelessly. Additional powerpoints have been installed around the school, including externally in appropriate outdoor areas, to enable students to charge their iPad easily if required.

The original plan was to introduce the iPads to each Year 7 group as they began at Holsworthy High School, requiring six years before every student in the school had a device. Due to the overwhelming success of the program, the roll out was accelerated to the point where this was achieved in just three years.

School Managed Device

A major aspect of the program that has contributed to the success of the program is that the devices are owned and managed by the school. The setup fees and termly technology fees (outlined below) contribute to the substantial ongoing costs of the entire program and are not intended to pay off the cost of the device. The school contributes significant funds to initially purchase the iPads, pencils and keyboards, pay support staff and licensing fees and support families that need financial assistance. Paying the technology fee also allows students to take the device home. Although the reason for this is to provide equity for our students by ensuring that they all have access to a device for school work, they can also use it for personal use when at home, but this is at their parents discretion. Despite this, the iPad remains a school owned device. As a result, we are able to manage what students have access to when at school, download software and applications when required by teachers and arrange any repairs or replacement if required. None of this would be possible if the devices were not owned by the school.

Parental Controls

Parents are able to supervise and control their child's use of the iPad after school hours. The link below provides parents with information of how to navigate this process:

<https://support.apple.com/en-au/HT201304>

Technology Levy

When the program was first implemented, one of the most complex components was the financial aspect. The school investigated a variety of options including payment plans for parents to purchase the device and leasing agreements, however neither of these options would allow the school to manage the devices as outlined above. These options would have also put the onus on families to pay for and download applications and arrange repairs if necessary.

The current fee structure is outlined below. When these fees were introduced, we abolished other school fees and reduced elective subject fees to offset these costs. Costs of hardware have increased significantly in recent times, but the school has been able to manage these increases to maintain the price of the technology levy for parents. Financial assistance is also available to any families who may require it.

While general repairs will be covered by the school, careless, intentional or malicious damage to the devices will need to be paid for.

Costs

Setup fee - \$100

Technology Levy - \$50 per term

The Technology Levy covers:

- Rental of an iPad, Pencil and Keyboard
- Bootcamp training by an Apple Training Specialist
- Professional development for our staff to develop great teaching material
- Specific Apps for engaging lessons
- Technical support to keep the iPads running

Report all damage and loss to the school library as soon as possible. It is important not to lose, misplace or damage your iPad or the following fees may be applicable;

- Replacement Screen \$90
- Replacement Pencil (Generic) \$30
- Replacement Keyboard \$130
- Replacement iPad \$450

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. *Can students bring their own iPad (or other device) to school?*

No, personal devices should be left at home. As they are not managed by the school they lose many of the benefits that are so vital to the success of this program.

2. *Can my child take the device home?*

Yes we want you to take the device home and use it for your homework, research, studies and have fun with it.

3. *Can I control what my child does with the device at home?*

The school will remove our restrictions on the device at 3pm. Parents will be given access to software which allows you to limit what your child can and cannot do after hours. Keeping the device at home is a privilege that may be revoked at any time for any reason.

4. *What accessories does the device come with?*

The device comes with a tough case and keyboard. The device must stay in the case at all times to prevent damage. The pencil is a useful (and expensive) accessory which allows you to hand write properly on the device. The Apple pencil must be clipped into your case at all times when you are not using it to ensure that you do not lose it.

5. *Do students still need books?*

The iPads are not intended to replace books altogether, so they are still required for most subjects.

6. *What happens if a student forgets to bring their iPad to school?*

We understand there are times we all forget things. If a student forgets their device they need to go to the library and borrow an iPad for the school day. It must be returned at the end of the day. If a student makes a habit of forgetting their device or failing to charge it, a consequence will be issued which involves revoking privilege weekend use.

7. *What should happen if a device is damaged?*

You need to take the device to the library and inform administration staff and discuss what has happened. We may require you to pay for the damage if it is deemed as negligent or careless. A loan device may be provided.

8. *What if the device is stolen?*

Managed devices are not useful to anyone else, as soon as it goes missing we can see the location and permanently lock the device. Report any missing devices to Library technical and administration staff. It is important that you are careful and do not leave the device unattended

9. What happens to the iPad when students leave Holsworthy High School?

The iPads will be removed from our system after 6 years. If a student is at Holsworthy from year 7-12 they are able to keep the iPad when they leave. When a student leaves the school before the end of Year 12 the iPad needs to be returned to the school and will be reissued to new students enrolling.

10. What do I do if I have other questions?

Phone or email the school and you will be put in touch with an appropriate staff member to provide you with assistance.