

BUYING OR LOANING A STUDENT DEVICE

Advice when looking to purchase a device for student home use.

5 CONSIDERATIONS



BUDGET

What is the maximum you can afford?



BASE EXPECTATIONS

Fundamentally what will you use the device for?



DURABILITY

Will the device be moved around a lot, is it liable to be treated roughly?



LIFESPAN

Based upon your budget, how many years would you expect this investment to last. A £500 laptop should easily last 4 years, this would be £10.42 a month. Will you get £10's worth of benefit a month from the device?



COMPATIBILITY

Are other devices used in the household and does the new device need to talk to them easily?



AS A RULE OF THUMB:

- **Windows based laptops** are excellent multi-purpose machines. They have local storage which means you do not have to rely upon being connected to the Internet and can run locally installed applications along with Cloud-based applications such as Google Docs.
- **Apple Mac devices** are reliable, fast, and easy to use workhorses. They will invariably far outlast any laptop and are well supported. They are not generally used as gaming devices and can suffer from compatibility issues as software may not always be available for Apple Mac's.
- **Chromebooks** are excellent for Cloud-based working. They are fast, have an excellent battery life and are extremely good value for money. The problem is that there is usually very little local storage meaning that an Internet connection is always required, and they rely upon Cloud-based services. They are not suitable for gaming, video editing and as with Apple Mac's, can suffer from compatibility issues as software may not always be available on-line.

TYPES OF DEVICE

LAPTOP:

High-end Gaming, graphic and video editing with maximum compatibility with software packages. Approximately £1,000.



LAPTOP:

Light gaming, Office applications and general internet browsing with maximum compatibility with software package. Approximately £500.



CHROMEBOOK:

Cloud based application use such as Google Docs or Microsoft 365. Approximately £200.



APPLE MAC:

Apple iMac. Approximately £1,400.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Much of the social and environmental impact from a computer- such as mining for conflict minerals- comes from the production and manufacturing process. A refurbished or second-hand computer is a great option for reducing the demand for conflict minerals and increasing the lifecycle of a product.

For further information please [click here](#).

IN SUMMARY



If you are looking for a device that will be used for accessing and viewing content over the Internet, including Google Docs and Microsoft 365, a Chromebook is ideal. Remember though, a Chromebook should not be considered if looking for a device suitable for gaming.

For maximum compatibility, a mid to high-end laptop will meet all your requirements.

If you want a device that will run the specific applications that you want (and are available for MacOS), is incredibly reliable and fast, an iMac or MacBook is best.

As Wilmslow High School utilise Cloud-based services and storage for resources, apart from students undertaking Computer Science or Art & Design subjects, a Chromebook is the preferred device.



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