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Laptop Specifications

The information below outlines the minimum specifications required for any new laptop.

Device: Any Windows-based machine or Mac that meet the minimum specifications listed.

Minimum Specification: You may choose to extend these.

Processor	Intel i5 or i7 Quad Core Ryzen 5 or Ryzen 7 Quad Core Apple M3 or M4
RAM	8GB (16GB Preferred)
Operating System	MacOS 14 (Sonoma) or later Windows 10 (Home, Pro) ***cannot be Windows S Version***
Battery Life	10 hours
Wireless	Wireless 5
Screen Size	13" (1366x768)
Hard Drive Capacity	256GB or higher
External Port	Audio Out
Charging Port - Desirable	USB-C charging

Brand: **We recommend no one brand over any other.**

Accessories: Cabled earphones are required by all students.

Software: Students will be given, free by the College access to Microsoft's Office 365 and software. Details of how to access this software will be released before the end of the year. This can only be done once student have their CEWA email address allocated early next year for new students. Students with existing CEWA emails from Primary Schools will continue using the same email address and set up Office365 using this.

LAPTOP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I need to consider when purchasing a device?

Outside of the minimum specification, you may wish to consider size and weight. You may also want to consider

a touch screen option. Please review the after-sale service options and consider any insurance options available. We recommend the purchase of a bag.

What brand do I buy?
This is a personal choice, so long as the device meets the minimum specifications.

Why are parents given free choice over what and where they purchase the device?
This enables parents to seek the best deal for their purchase. They may also seek to finance the laptop through their chosen vendor.

What support will the school offer in terms of help?
We will ensure students have an account to access the school's network. Our students all have a free Microsoft Office365 license as part of this account. No assistance can be provided for laptops that do not meet our minimum specifications.

Do I need anti-virus software Windows and Apple MacBook's?
Yes, strongly recommended. Windows Defender Antivirus is built into Windows 10. There are many other commercial options. This is provided for Windows and Apple Laptops. Mac computers have long enjoyed a reputation for being essentially immune to viruses and other types of malware. However, while they are still more secure than Windows systems, Macs are still vulnerable to some malware, and it's a growing problem.

How do I care for the device?
This is the responsibility of the students. Students are reminded that they need to bring their device to school fully charged. Devices should be clearly labelled.

Repairs and Maintenance
This is the responsibility of the students and parents. Speak to your vendor about these options. Some vendors offer a pickup service.

Why do we specify minimum specifications?
This endures the devices have capacity to run all the software now and into the near future. Students interested in **Computing, Photography or Media** may wish to purchase computers with greater specification than those outlined here.

Why is USB-C charging desirable?
Laptop batteries have improved over time but if a student is doing processor intensive work (Graphics, Programming etc.) the battery can still need charging during the day. USB-C provides a common charging solution available at the College during the day for charging.

What additional hardware will I need to provide?
All students at Prendiville are required to have a set of earphones. The earphones must be corded, not be Bluetooth. This is a requirement of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) as devices maybe used for State and National testing.

Are students permitted to have games on their laptops?

As this is a personal device, students are permitted to have games on their device. Games, however, are not to be used during school hours and students must comply with the College's Information Communication Technology Responsible Use Policy and Procedures.