



20 September 2016

Dear 2017 Year 7 Parents,

I would like to provide some updated information about our iPad programs for 2017.

The College's approach to the use of all Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is that they are best utilised in a supporting role – to complement other learning strategies employed by our teachers. They are most effective in expanding and extending the learning of our boys when their inclusion in learning tasks is purposeful, high quality, consistent, and informed by research and experience. The iPads have contributed to the classroom in many ways, providing rapid research, collaboration, content creation, and feedback. They help boys create, organise, connect and personalise their learning.

In the past six months several internal studies and parent surveys have examined our current use. The goal of these explorations was to assess all ICT impacts inside and beyond the classroom. In particular we have focused on harnessing the best from each approach while reducing the impacts associated with possible misuse of the device at school, on transport, and at home. Following this investigation, the program for 2017 is changing and the main points are;

1. Rather than parents providing an iPad for Years 7 and 8, each boy will be assigned the use of an iPad, configured for learning, owned and supported by the College ICT Department.
2. Students will make use of a new initiative from Apple that allows the College to supply and administer an Apple ID for each student. These 'Managed IDs' do not have access to the App Store and their use of many other features (e.g. iMessage) is determined by the College. This prevents boys from putting Apps on their iPad. This was a key request from the parent survey. Parents wanted the ability to restrict the iPad from being a distraction.
3. The iPad will continue to be used for the majority of textbooks. This saves considerable money for parents and reduces the need for heavy bags to be carried to and from school. Recent efforts have kept the textbook levy under \$400, a saving of around 50% compared with the cost of Year 7 textbooks prior to the introduction of the iPad program.
4. The iPad can still be used for Internet access at home using your Wi-Fi connection hence parents will still need to set their own parameters or filters around such home usage.
5. This change is designed to maximise a strong "learning focus" of the iPad and to take advantage of College access to bulk pricing and ability to reduce other costs, including insurance. A major goal is to minimise the overall cost impact to all families.
6. An iPad insurance plan will be in place for the iPad with an excess charge payable in case of accidental damage or theft (subject to insurance conditions). Where boys display exceptional care for the iPad two year period the opportunity may exist for families to purchase the iPad.

Over the coming months the College will be in further contact with detailed information regarding the next steps. There will need to be a formal contract signed by all parties at the time of the orientation procedures in November.

Regards,

Myles Carrick  
Director of ICT

