

BYOD FAQ for 2024

20 October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 7 2024 students,

At Nazareth College, we are committed to providing the best quality education and educational opportunities for personalized learning. As a key part of our 1:1 Learning Technologies and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) strategy, all Year 7 Nazareth College students are required to have a laptop computer for the start of the 2024 school year.

At Nazareth College, we have been incorporating technology into every phase of learning for a number of years now. From an educational perspective we introduced BYOD for personal learning devices at the start of 2015 to aid the students in the learning process and to ensure staff can reliably plan to utilise technology for student learning. The BYOD being a Laptop computer enables the College to more effectively support student devices and to distribute software for student learning on a more consistent basis, as many applications are not supported for tablet use. Thus, the BYOD laptop as a student learning device is an essential part of our learning environment for all our Years 7 - 10 students in 2024. We have partnered with CentreCom Computers to offer families an opportunity to purchase from a list of “preferred devices”.

Is a BYOD laptop computer a compulsory item?

Yes. The school sees this as the direction for education and for achieving the best outcomes for students, so it is a compulsory item that Year 7–12 students will require from the first day of school for 2024. Laptop computers enable the College to more effectively support student devices and to distribute software for student learning on a more consistent basis, as many applications are not supported for tablet use.

Who will require a BYOD laptop in 2024?

In short, the answer is all students new to Nazareth College in 2024. A number of factors have influenced this decision, including the ability to compensate for the cost via booklist reduction and conversion to eTexts, which is possible over a two-year cycle (i.e. Years 7-8 or Years 9-10).

If my child already has a device as a Nazareth student in 2023 do I need to purchase a new device? Students who were in Years 7 – 11 at Nazareth College in 2023 and have already been using a laptop at Nazareth College will be permitted to keep using their digital learning device; however, all new students and any replacement devices must be a laptop device.

Where do parents purchase the device?

Nazareth College has partnered with CentreCom. Parents have the flexibility to purchase the device from the store or online provider of their choice. There will be no payment options through the school.

Can I purchase a device from another reseller?

Yes. Parents do have the option of purchasing a device from an alternative reseller, provided the device meets the “minimum technical requirements” as detailed in Fig 1

Are parents paying for the device?

Yes. Parents are to purchase the device and the device becomes the student's (parent's) own property: it will be yours to keep. We have a 'Digital Learning Devices User Agreement' in place to ensure that the devices are used appropriately and for educational purposes only while on school grounds and at school events. There will be no option to rent or buy through the College.

Why?

eLearning devices are designed to be personal devices that operate based on a personal Microsoft OneDrive/365, Google or Apple ID account. All eTexts are managed through individual student accounts, so it is most appropriate for the device to be personally owned. To assist families in the affordability of the device, the majority of booklist items have been reviewed and have a digital equivalent. The eBooks and Apps are significantly cheaper, so that across two years the combined booklist and laptop costs are designed to be virtually cost-neutral (dependant on parent choice of laptop).

Perhaps the laptop could be a Christmas present – even a joint purchase with grandparents or other relatives.

What support will Nazareth College supply for the device?

To support student learning with their BYOD Laptop, the College provides:

- Wireless connectivity throughout the College
- School internet filtering
- Access to the Microsoft Office 365 suite (including Outlook Email, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, and more), school-provided email, and MS Onedrive
- Access to SIMON Learning Management System for morning notices, timetable, reports and more

What is needed in terms of device?

The minimum requirements for an appropriate BYOD device depend on the chosen type of device:

Fig: 1

Type of Device	Laptop
Screen Size	13" (33cm) screen size or larger
Processing Memory (RAM)	8GB minimum
Storage Memory	250GB (laptop)
Wireless Compatibility	802.11 ac PS CFUUPS - Must have a Wireless Network Card
Battery	At least 6 hours of sustained battery usage
Operating System	Windows 10 Pro or newer or latest MacOS
Unsupported Devices	iPads, Tablets, Netbooks and Chromebooks

An updated and preferred list of Devices can be found by registering at

<https://eduportal.centrecom.com.au/Account/SignIn>

School ID: NCNP3174

Please note that the laptops with smaller screens are not sufficient, as the much smaller screen size severely compromises the ability to effectively navigate the eTexts and other resources.

When do students need the device?

The College now has the student profile enrolment ready and the e-texts will be available for downloading from late-January 2024 (Campion will email parents with instructions), so that the student e-texts will be ready for classroom use from the first school day of 2024. Ideally, all students should have their device by early January 2024 to enable the setup of the device (from home) and to allow some time for students to get used to the device before bringing it to the learning environment.

What type of physical protection is required?

Nazareth College requires all student laptops to be well-protected with a sturdy case that protects all parts of the casing and screen, students should have either a padded sleeve or a shoulder bag for their device.

If a student already has a device, it is important to understand that a sturdy case / sleeve / bag is compulsory. Students who arrive on the first day without suitably sturdy protection for carrying their device between classes will be required to purchase one. Think of it as part of the uniform.

We already have an older device at home: do we need to upgrade?

Laptops are generally expected to last for 3 years, but all devices may be suitable for longer periods providing their speed and storage remains optimal for learning (and meets the minimum requirements specified above).

Can the device be engraved for Security purposes?

It is best to consult with the manufacturer or place of purchase to ensure that you do not void the warranty if you want to do this when you purchase the device.

Do we still have to buy textbooks and stationery?

YES, you have the option to buy several physical texts, stationery and eTexts (all purchased by parents via Campion booklist).

At this stage, not all text books used in our Curriculum are available in electronic format; however, the number of textbooks has been significantly reduced by Nazareth due to eText bundles. For most eTexts, parents also have the option of purchasing a physical, printed copy (usually at an additional cost).

How and when will students get eTexts, eBooks and school-supplied software?

eText and eBook links are emailed by Campion to the student's Nazareth College email address. Students will not have to hand over their devices to anyone to get any materials or software but they will need to agree to some terms and conditions as specified in the '**Digital Learning Devices User Agreement**' in order to use the school Wi-Fi network to download items.

What can students have on their device?

While the BYOD device is being utilized as a learning tool, we recognise it is also a personal device. School-required resources will not fill the device, and students can put other apps and software on it, within the limits of the Digital Learning Devices User Agreement.

Students will need to ensure there is enough room for all the educational materials first. As an example, Nazareth College will not be sympathetic if a student cannot get the Maths book on their device because there are too many personally saved videos or games.

Students will need to ensure that the content is appropriate for school and they will need to make sure that whatever is on their device is used only at appropriate times.

Students will be required to sign the **'Digital Learning Devices User Agreement'** about the use of their BYOD device and other eLearning resources before they are allowed to access the network. Nazareth College will expect that students follow the terms to which they have agreed. The agreement is currently available to parents via [PAM](#).

Is there technical support for the devices?

Yes, but the College is only able to provide support primarily for network access and some software / e-text issues.

The College is not a device repairer and not recognized as such by manufacturers for this purpose. You will need to organise your own hardware and warranty repairs through your place of purchase or recommended repairer as listed in your device warranty.

What happens if the device is damaged or lost?

With the device being owned by the student, and not the school, it cannot be covered by the College insurance policy. It needs to be covered by your own contents insurance policy. You should investigate this with your insurer if you wish to insure the device (highly recommended by the College).

Is there an agreement I need to sign before my child can use the device at school?

Yes. As part of the program, parents and students will need to agree to the terms of the **'Digital Learning Devices User Agreement'** before a device will be permitted to access the College network and be brought to classes.

What if we decide we want a higher model device?

Families are welcome to purchase a device that exceeds the minimum requirements if they wish.

Do we have to pay for all software and Apps that the school wants my child to have? The simple answer is Yes (*via Composite subject levy*), although the school provides access to the Microsoft Office 365 Suite.

As part of the eLearning package the school will provide students with access to a set of core software and/or Apps and other software/Apps deemed necessary for the students' study purposes. The cost of these is included in the Composite subject levy.

Instructions for installation of the Office 365 suite are distributed to students via SIMON and can be accessed by parents through the 'Nazareth College BYOD-Office 365' file in the PAM Knowledge Banks in the [eLearning folder](#).

Can you open and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents on all devices?

Thanks to the College-provided Office 365 suite, every student has free access to the whole MS Office Suite of apps

The Office 365 suite includes Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, Outlook and more, **and can be accessed both on the student device and online.** Instructions for installation of the Office 365 suite are distributed to students via SIMON and can be accessed by parents through the 'Nazareth College BYOD-Office 365' file in the PAM Knowledge Banks in the [eLearning folder](#).

What if I can't get Wi-Fi at home?

Most e-texts also come as PDF versions so students will still be able to complete homework, and families will also have the option of purchasing a physical, printed copy of most texts through the booklist (at an additional cost). In addition, the College Resource Centre is open both before and after school for students, and all local libraries also have free Wi-Fi access.

Will students be able to charge their devices at school?

Yes. There are limited charging locations located throughout the school where students can charge their device. Within classroom there are 2 to 4 dedicated points where a student can charge their device. The resource centre also has several points that students can utilise. It is the responsibility of students to bring in their own charging packs as the school can not provide.

Will the students be able to use their devices in the school yard?

No: the school encourages a balance of work and play. To ensure protection of BYOD devices from damage, they will be required to be secured in lockers during recess and lunch with their combination lock. Students are able to use the device in the Resource Centre at recess/lunch time and before/after school to complete school work.

How will teachers provide feedback?

There are a number of means by which feedback will occur. Teachers will provide most of their feedback via the SIMON Learning Management System using Continuous Reporting, which is accessible to parents via PAM. Teachers can also add notes to work and email it back to students, or directly into a shared document. Criteria sheets can be used and uploaded to SIMON for students. This encourages more *one-to-one*, personalised feedback during the development stages of various pieces of work.

Will my child stop hand-writing?

No! The eLearning device will act as an educational tool to aid in the learning process. Students will still need writing skills as assessment tasks will be balanced to both utilize the creativity of learning technology and to continue to reflect the VCE Examination requirements, which remain handwritten for the foreseeable future.

Can you print from all BYOD devices?

Nazareth College has installed printer-copiers in designated student access areas, Resource Centre, to which students can wirelessly send printing jobs from any device that can access email by sending the print job to print@nazareth.vic.edu.au

At the College, the aim is to try to reduce the number of printouts required by each student over time. As part of the Nazareth College Community, we encourage students to

be aware of, and make every effort to minimise the impact on our environment. The eLearning device will assist in achieving this goal by reducing paper usage overall.

Which software or Apps will my child require on their device?

For laptop/ hybrid devices, most applications will come with the Windows or other operating system. Some applications will need to be accessed as web-based applications.

As noted above, the College will provide instructions for students on download and use of the Microsoft Office 365 suite.

Are there any controls over what my child can and can't use on their laptop?

The College upgraded our wireless and network infrastructure to provide students with a Wi-Fi network capable of handling hundreds of users at once. As part of this upgrade, the College has installed CyberHound, a powerful Next Generation (level 7) Firewall that operates at the top level of the OSI network model and gives a complete view of the College's internet activity, to control and filter everything that is accessed via any 1:1 student device. Students misusing their device can instantly be identified and disconnected from the network and parents are informed of any student breaches and action taken as a consequence.

As a College, we look forward to working with you to continue to improve the student learning experience through enhancing personalised learning and engagement.

Yours faithfully,



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