

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All pupils will be required to have a laptop for their educational use during their time in the Upper School (5th and 6th Form). In conjunction with Rugby School, I am writing to provide details regarding the laptop service we offer across the two schools. All new starters to the school in Upper School will be enrolled into the service.

The Upper School years of prep school life very much focus on the transitional needs of the pupils in preparation and readiness for senior school, and part of this readiness is the pupils becoming well organised and computer literate. Communication methods at senior school will often be made via email, with preps set on the computer, work recorded and stored in OneNote, research work done in the classroom and the power of the internet used purposefully in order to enhance and enrich learning.

There are lessons from the experience of remote education that have enhanced student learning and that will remain fundamental to our teaching in the years to come. The use of educational technology, such as Teams and OneNote, has allowed for improved student access to resources and information, increased options for collaboration, and improved capacity for the recording and organisation of notes. It has become apparent that a fundamental limitation of a number of laptops is the fact that they do not have 'inkable' capability. The capacity to produce free-form, digital marking by hand, is something that our teaching staff have used, and that students need if they are to fully benefit from digital learning. This capability is important across the subject disciplines, whether planning essays or deconstructing texts, responding to scientific or mathematical problems, or engaging in developing creative ideas or concepts. The service will provide students with a device that has this capacity as well as a comfortable and sensibly sized keyboard, also essential for learning and schoolwork.

Before settling on the service, we engaged in a digital review that considered the technological and service side of our previous scheme as well as the academic learning factors outlined above. Our conclusion was that the costs of our previous scheme were increasing, while the service benefits and the quality of the laptop provided were not improving. The service we use has been trialled and developed successfully in other similar schools.

All our current 4th Form pupils and new starters to Bilton Grange in next year's 5th and 6th Form will be automatically enrolled on our laptop service, at a termly cost of £196. The service will provide your child with a premium device, a Lenovo Yoga. We have tested this device and are confident it is of a high quality, a robust build and sensibly priced. In addition to

the inkable capability and practical keyboard, the device has an all-day battery life, performance that will comfortably complete the full range of digital tasks required of our students in all subjects, and complete compatibility with the Microsoft Software that underpins our digital learning. In addition to the device, the service includes insurance and warranty provision that will allow our technical services team to swiftly repair or replace broken or damaged devices with minimal disruption to student learning. A final, considerable advantage is that the service enables us to enhance our safeguarding capabilities, allowing us to safeguard your child when online to a greater degree than we are currently able. It is important to note that the laptop will remain the property of the School and will be directly managed by the School. The devices will be available to your child from the first day of term in September.

If you have further questions please get in touch with our Director of IT, Mr Pieter van der Walt ([pvdw@rugbyschool.net](mailto:pvdw@rugbyschool.net)).

Yours sincerely,

Greg Das Gupta

Assistant Head (Academic)