

Balshaw's Laptops for All Scheme

Year 9

Balshaw's – Devices for All Programme

Balshaw's has always taken the best of what has been tried and tested in other schools rather than experimenting with the future of our own students. Lockdown has demonstrated that there are different ways of teaching and learning that support rapid student progress. Whilst entirely remote teaching is not a solution, the possibilities that a blended learning approach can have in the classroom are clear.

Devices for All is not a new thing. When I arrived at Balshaw's in 2014, I came from a school whose students had all had laptops as part of a scheme since 2007. Not being able to teach students with ready-access to IT technology and the rich learning possibilities of online learning tools felt like having a limb cut off. Many schools now operate a Devices for All scheme. Locally Archbishop Temple, Wellfield, Tarleton and Ribblesdale (which is an Ed-Tech leader) all have Devices for All schemes. The time is now right for Balshaw's to adopt this established technology.

Remote learning during the Coronavirus Pandemic was a challenge for many, but there were also many positive things that came from this. The ability for work to be shared and monitored quickly and easily by students and parents/carers. For staff to be able to record verbal feedback, quickly add notes to submitted work, for students to ask questions more easily, for a range of software and digital learning tools to be employed to enrich students' learning experiences to name a few.

It raised a clear issue for us as a school: we would lose many benefits if we were to go back to simply doing work in exercise books again. Much would be lost and it feels like a significant retrograde step!

Technology will never be a substitute for a teacher – this we have clearly seen! However, we need to make full and effective use of technology for learning. Students need to learn about safe, effective and productive use of technology learning tools. We want to make the educational experience for students at Balshaw's as varied, dynamic and stimulating as possible.

Our Laptop For All scheme is designed to enable 1:1 access to technology for our students in every lesson which will enhance the learning experience for our students and enable us to continue to provide the best levels of education.

We are looking to utilise laptops which help students organise, communicate, learn and study both at school and when at home. Individual access to technology is not something that should happen in a few rooms in a school, it should be for everyone, everywhere and at any time. Young people are used to having access to the Internet at all times, in all places – school should not be the exception. We want our students to have access to the greatest source of information ever assembled and to study and research in their own innovative and personalised ways.

The equipment on offer

Laptops are very clearly a productivity tool with the ability to operate software as well as apps, have full connectivity to peripheral devices, keyboard, integrate with the school's management software and are fully compliant with all aspects of Office 365.

As a consequence of our research, advice from other schools and seeing where devices have the most impact as a tool for teaching and learning, laptop devices have been selected as the device that would be the focus for our Devices for All scheme.

These laptops are specifically designed for student use with a robust outer casing to ensure that they withstand all functional requirements. They each have a guaranteed repair service which will cover any repairs or replacement throughout the students time at school. There is no additional cost for claims, giving complete peace of mind.

What's included?

- Asus Laptop – Ruggedised and designed for students
- Sophos InterceptX Advanced Endpoint Protection & Antivirus
- 3 Yr Extended Warranty
- 32 Month Guaranteed Repair Service
- Microsoft Office 365

How much does it cost?

The package offered is available for £13.08 per month over 32 months including all of the items above. There are no credit checks and it is open to all students.

Parents/carers / Carers can opt to pay via monthly direct debit over 32 months or a one off payment through the online ordering portal.

Please note: financial support is available from school for families who are struggling to find the money at the moment. We especially encourage Pupil Premium eligible families to come forward if they need financial support, but even if your child is not eligible for PP, if they do not have access to their own device already to use at home, please get in touch with us at laptopscheme@balshaws.org.uk

How do I place my order?

To place your order via the portal please use the details below:

Go to: www.tech4learners.co.uk

Username: **BCEHS921**

Password: **S3cure02!**

THE PORTAL OPENS ON THE 15th OCTOBER 2021

THE PORTAL CLOSES ON THE 10th NOVEMBER 2021

FIRST DIRECT DEBIT ON THE 25th NOVEMBER 2021

If your first Direct Debit fails your order will be cancelled

Handout is planned for Friday 17th December 2021

Available for **ONLY £13.08 per month**

Log onto **www.tech4learners.co.uk** and place your order from **15th October to 10th November**

Username: BCEHS921

Password: S3cure02!

If you require assistance or have any questions then please go to <https://freedomtech.co.uk/help/>

Asus BR1100C Laptop **Strong, smart power for learning**



£13.08 per month

Other payment options are available, including outright purchase

Price Includes:

- 3 Year Warranty
- 32 Month Guaranteed Repair Service
(Repair or replacement for any damaged, faulty or stolen device)
- School Software, Applications, Network Access
- 36 Month Sophos InterceptX Advanced Endpoint Protection & Antivirus
- Ownership at end – no additional cost

Specification:

- Intel® Celeron® N4500 Processor 1.1 GHz (4M Cache, up to 2.8 GHz, 2 cores)
- 11.6" AntiGlare HD (1366 x 768) 16:9 LED backlit display
- 4GB DDR4 Memory
- 64GB eMMC Storage
- Intel® UHD Graphics
- Wi-Fi 5(802.11ac)+Bluetooth 5.0 (Dual band) 2*2 – Gigabit WiFi
- Windows 10 Pro
- 720p HD camera//With privacy shutter
- Rugged Design (**US MIL-STD 810H military-grade standard**)
- 1x USB 2.0 Type-A, 1x USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A , 1x USB 3.2 Gen 2 Type-C, 1x HDMI 1.4, 1x 3.5mm Combo Audio Jack, 1x RJ45 Gigabit Ethernet, 1x DC-in, Built-in Speaker, Built-in array Microphone
- 1.26Kg

Payment Terms

- 32 month Direct Debit = £13.08 p/month
- 24 month Direct Debit = £16.74 p/month
- 12 month Direct Debit = £32.00 p/month
- 1 Outright Purchase = £369.84 one off payment at point of order

These laptops are of a rugged education design and as such do not require a laptop bag or case. They are designed to go straight into a school bag.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why have you chosen the Asus Laptop?

We have elected to equip our students with the following high-quality device, the Asus BR1100C Laptop.

ASUS BR1100C is designed with one thing in mind: to keep on going however tough the environment gets. Built to military-grade standards, it's packed with clever protective features, including an all-round rubber bumper, spill-resistant keyboard and ultratough I/O ports. BR1100C also has AI-powered noise-cancelling technology for high-quality remote learning and conferencing. There's battery life to handle more than a full day's learning, and a modular design makes it easy to service, BR1100C is ready for anything.

ASUS BR1100C is built to withstand everyday knocks, bumps, drops and spills without damage. So, whether it's dropped from a classroom desk or the dining table, BR1100C is built to keep on going.

Classrooms can be tough, but ASUS BR1100C is tougher! Built to surpass demanding US military-grade MIL-STD-810H durability standards, it's also torture-tested to pass stringent ASUS quality tests. It can withstand occasional drops of up to 120 cm — more than standard desk height — and the hinge and I/O ports are fully tested to endure the stresses and strains of everyday use.

To provide exceptional remote learning and video-conferencing experiences, ASUS BR1100C features innovative ASUS AI noise-cancelling technology that employs machine learning in order to isolate unwanted noise from human speech.

Innovative 3D noise-reduction (3DNR) technology on the ASUS BR1100C webcam eliminates up to 94% of the random noise that naturally affects any camera, especially in low-light conditions — significantly improving image quality without compromising exposure or detail levels.

Slide over the physical cover to disable the webcam for instant privacy. This simple feature helps keep users safe.

With up to 10 hours battery life on a single charge, ASUS BR1100C will last for a full day of classes and more — empowering students to enjoy both uninterrupted learning and relaxation.

The surface of any laptop harbors thousands of potentially harmful bacteria. To keep your ASUS BR1100C hygienic, the keyboard, touchpad, and palm rest are all protected with antibacterial treatment. This has been scientifically shown by the internationally-recognised ISO 22196 standard to inhibit the growth of bacteria by in excess of 99% over a 24-hour period. ASUS Antibacterial Guard is also made to withstand alcohol-based cleaning products and hypochlorous acid water, empowering you to keep the surface of your laptop clean and sanitary — limiting the spread of harmful bacteria.

In summary we feel that this device is the best fit for our students and one that will stand the test of time within a school and home environment.

Why not iPads?

iPads were initially used by many schools who started out on this route. This is not a recommended route at secondary level. iPads are good 'consumer' devices — i.e. they are good for watching media, researching on the internet. However, there are significant limitations to them. Schools tend to run Microsoft IT management systems and there are all sorts of issues in being able to integrate with school systems such as printing devices. iPads do not work well for productivity either. An iPad is not the device of choice if you are going to write an essay!

The Microsoft range of applications is world-class and will set Balshaw's students up for the world of work or university. Students will leave Balshaw's confident with the Office 365 suite of products, which is the elite work-place standard, globally. Students will be trained in using OneDrive and develop practical working knowledge of cloud storage which will prepare them for industry — whatever route they choose.

Apple iPads are not fully integrated with the Microsoft operating platform and would limit the potential for use in teaching and learning.

Chromebooks are cheaper, why are you using laptops?

Chromebooks are no longer cheaper than laptops. In fact, current Lenovo Chromebook is more expensive than the equivalent laptop and does not have as good a wifi chip. We cannot manage Chromebook devices with our network management tools to keep students safe in school. They also do not have the power to run software equivalents of Photoshop for digital art work, computing environments such as Python Shell. Also, we feel that it is important that students work in a Windows environment to prepare them for the world of work which will not use Android as an OS.

Can we provide our own laptop for my child to use?

The answer to this at the moment is no.

Following consultation we are aware that a number of people bought laptops during the lockdown and we hope that we may be able to allow these onto our system when we have our wifi upgraded which has the possibility of us being able to authenticate external devices onto our network. It must be remembered that devices purchased outside of this scheme are not of the ruggedized type that are built to withstand a school environment.

One of the main reasons for using laptops that are part of the scheme into school is the warranty and repair services that are in place for the laptops bought as part of the scheme. If your child was to bring their own device into school and it was lost, damaged or stolen, you would be entirely responsible for this.

Is it compulsory to be a part of the laptop scheme?

No. We cannot require this from all parents/carers. We do hope that the vast majority of parents/carers will do this and on the occasions when the use of a laptop is planned as a requirement for a lesson, a school laptop will be provided where available for a student who is not part of the scheme.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to pay monthly?

No. There is also the option to make a one off payment via the portal if you wish.

What happens if I miss a payment, find that I cannot afford the scheme or my child leaves Balshaw's?

You would have to return the device to Balshaw's or alternatively pay the outstanding payments to take ownership of the device. You will not own the device until the final payment is made.

What happens to the device at the end of the lease?

At the end of the lease you will own the computer.

Who legally owns the device?

Freedom Tech owns the device until the final parental instalment is paid, when ownership will transfer to you. If you elect to pay upfront you will own the device from the outset.

How do I sign up to the scheme?

Follow the link in the flyer to the Balshaw's and Freedom Tech portal and sign up to the scheme. The portal is open until 10th November 2021. You will be asked to enter your direct debit details if you choose to pay monthly. If paying monthly, your first payment will be debited from your account on 25th November 2021. If opting to pay up front, your payment will be taken immediately.

When will the device arrive?

Once you have registered with the portal, the devices will be delivered to school and the Balshaw's IT Services Team will issue students with their device and set students up on their device in school ready to take home for Christmas.

What happens if I do not sign up to the scheme and then change my mind, can we join the scheme later in the year?

The Freedom Tech portal will most likely open again after Christmas to enable those that did not join the first time around to place an order.

What happens if my circumstances change or my child leaves the school?

If your child was to leave the school you would have the option to return the device or make the remainder of payments that would mean you would take ownership of the device. If your financial circumstances changed, it is possible you would be eligible for Pupil Premium support or you would have the options as stated above.

How have the school ensured value for money?

A team of senior leaders, supported by Governors, have spent time investigating numerous different options, from a wide range of suppliers. We have consulted several other schools nationally, building a picture of what works in schools similar to Balshaw's and what does not. We found from all our research that Freedom Technology are not only the most widely used leasing company in education but also the most experienced in 1:1 device schemes. The service agreement and range of suppliers they source from has given Balshaw's a range of competitive quotes to select the very best devices from and confidence from other schools that we are in safe hands.

How reliable are the company who are providing support – can we be sure that the service provided will be worthwhile?

Freedom Technology have an understanding of the education sector that far outstrips other providers that we have consulted with. The inclusion of guaranteed repair service as part of the package means that we don't have to include a separate policy as part of the agreement.

All devices are equipped with Windows 10 Pro, Office 365 licensing, URL filtering, security and safeguarding software which protects our students at home and in school. Students and parents/carers also benefit from a full protection package to cover against malfunction, damage and theft.

I am concerned that my son/daughter spends too much time in front of a screen, and I don't want them to do more of this at school. Is this the right decision for Balshaw's?

The IT strategy is to enhance the learning experience not replace it – our students will still be equipped with all the traditional skills that Balshaw's provides but also ensures that our enterprising students are prepared for the future. Through the adoption of Microsoft Education packages, we are working hard to ensure that the huge amount of progress made during the remote learning period is built on and developed in the classroom. Our aim is to ensure that the use of technologies such as Class Notebook and Teams enhances the learning experience at Balshaw's, encourages collaboration and creates a seamless link between school and home.

Will this device help my son/daughter keep their notes in order?

Yes. While we will continue to teach outstanding lessons in the classroom, the device and move to cloud storage will provide an online record of resources used in lessons and easy access to the entire school system. This will be invaluable for students who have missed lessons, misplaced a file or their notes or left that all important homework in their locker! This is the way that university teaching and learning has developed and will prepare our students for higher education and independent study.

Does this mean that my child won't write any longer?

No – in a blended learning environment children will still write. Writing is no less important and we still have to prepare them for an examinations system that is assessed through written exams (at least for now!)

What is "Blended Learning"?

Blended Learning is a term used around the world. As its name suggests, 'technology' is blended in lessons alongside more traditional teaching and writing.

The benefit of blended learning is that it opens up lessons. Students can become even more independent. Strategic planning allows the teacher to give more time for discussions and higher-order thinking activities which are personalised during face-to-face interaction and feedback. The online tools enable students to have personalised instruction which supports different pace and styles of learning. Learning becomes more mobile and students are able to access reliable, up to date, stage appropriate resources at home.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will Balshaw's ensure my son/daughter is safe online when using a device in school and at home?

All devices are equipped with the most up to date safeguarding software which ensures that students can use the internet safely at home and in school.

Won't they have too much to carry in their bags?

It is likely that students will carry less. There will be less need for text books as these can be shared online if students have devices. Some departments in school have already moved to using a ring binder and A4 paper for students to organise their work at KS4. In preparation for the way that students learn post-16 and at KS4 we are likely to move to this, so students would only need their laptop and a plastic wallet in their bag. Students would organise their work in folders at home.

Will my son/daughter be able to use their device for personal and school use?

Yes. At Balshaw's we firmly believe in educating our students to use their devices safely and sensibly through our safety and pastoral programmes. Therefore, students will be able to use their devices as they would at home but will be expected to adhere to school rules and the acceptable usage policy as normal when in lessons.

If most students have an identical device, how will you ensure that they don't get mixed up?

When we "onboard" students, we are going to encourage them to set their lock screen as a picture of themselves or something which easily identifies them should they misplace their device around school. Students are also welcome to use stickers or a named case to ensure their device is easily recognised.

Each laptop will also be labelled with the student's name before they are handed out.

What happens if my son/daughter damages the device or it breaks down?

This is covered by the Guaranteed Repair Service provided by Freedom Technology. In the event of a device being damaged, breaking down or stolen then students are required to take the device to the IT Department at Balshaw's. The IT Team will log the support ticket with Freedom Technology and issue your son/daughter with a temporary replacement whilst theirs is away being repaired. The Freedom Technology helpdesk is open from Monday to Friday between 8AM and 6PM.

What support will Balshaw's provide to ensure that my son/daughter uses the device properly and gets the most out of it?

A comprehensive scheme of training will be implemented for all year groups and teachers to ensure the devices not only ease home learning but also develop learning in classrooms. We also fully expect our enterprising students to lead the way in the use of new technologies and look forward to working with them to ensure we implement the strategies which work for them.

How do I claim for warranty or repair/replacement?

You will be provided with policy documentation detailing what is covered. The Balshaw's IT Team will provide a replacement device from spares stock held in school. Students will use this loan device whilst theirs is away being repaired.

What is the excess on claims?

There is no excess on either the accidental damage, theft or warranty protection. This is a huge benefit of this scheme.

Does the laptop come with a bag or sleeve?

No. These laptops are of a rugged education design and as such do not require a laptop bag or case. They are designed to go straight into a school bag.

If I have any further queries, who can I speak to?

If you have any queries then please contact the team via email at laptopscheme@balshaws.org.uk clearly stating your son/daughter's name and year group in the title of the email and somebody from the team will get back to you.