



TARLETON

ACADEMY

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Chromebooks for Learning Project



chrome

Frequently Asked Questions



The Vision.

The 21st century has seen huge developments in technology, providing many opportunities to improve learning. Methods of working and learning are changing and the use of computer technology has become commonplace. We want students at Tarleton Academy to be prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

We work hard to ensure that every student is able to secure the ability to read, write and communicate effectively; use and apply number; and be digitally literate. We believe these are the fundamental key skills our students need to be successful in the modern world.

We firmly believe that learning extends beyond the classroom door, and that online technology can be a gateway to a seamless learning environment that extends to school and home.

We believe that, like many of the greatest developments of our time, learning is a collaborative process. Our vision is of students using Chromebooks creatively, collaboratively and to communicate effectively anywhere and at any time.

Chromebooks will allow our students to access the internet in all classrooms, collaborate with classmates (or others in a different class!), use a wide range of powerful apps and access learning resources at any time.

The school recognises the importance of IT facilities and continues to invest significantly in this area to maintain an infrastructure that allows students to access high quality resources to support their learning.

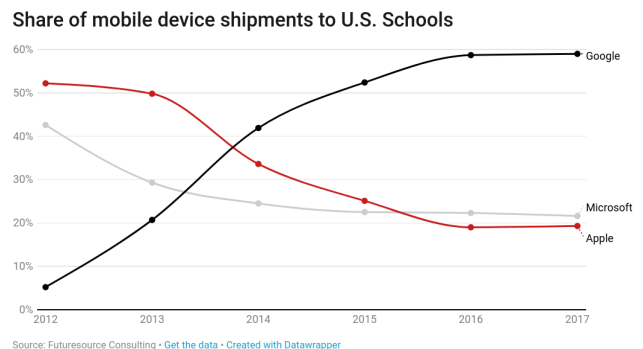
"We believe that, like many of the greatest developments of our time, learning is a collaborative process."

As technology advances, there are clear benefits of students being able to access facilities beyond their computer science lessons. We hope that this project will have a wide-ranging, positive impact upon subjects across the curriculum.

Why Chromebooks?

There are a wide range of tablet and laptop-style devices available on the market. Having conducted countless hours of research, spoken to other schools running similar schemes and taken into account our own experience with the tablet computers we already have, we concluded that Chromebooks are the device best suited to students in our school.

A Chromebook looks like any other laptop, but operates in a very different way with students accessing Google's G Suite for Education online. This suite of productivity tools, many third-party educational apps and a physical keyboard attached makes Chromebooks a good work-centred option.



Chromebook devices boot-up in matter of seconds and have a battery life that lasts upto an entire school day, depending on use. Chromebook devices are managed centrally by our IT Services team to ensure that problem-free access is safe and secure. Because of these features, the popularity of Chromebooks in Education, as well as other sectors, has risen dramatically in recent years.

Some other organisations using G Suite:





Is it good value?

We will provide a Student Chromebook Package comprising of a robust Chromebook, a warranty and insurance against accidental damage. This package will be approximately £9 per month for 36 months, £13 per month for 24 months or £24 per month for 12 months. At the end of the period the Chromebook will be yours.

We have worked hard to ensure that parents are offered the best possible price as we recognise that this is a significant financial commitment. The school is able to pass on all of the savings made through buying in bulk, direct from the manufacturer.

How do I make payments?

Payments will be made online through the school portal, in the same way that you will purchase other items of uniform and equipment from school.

Who owns the Chromebook?

Legally, if you are purchasing over 12, 24 or 36 months, the Academy owns the Chromebook until the final payment is made, at which point ownership transfers to you.

Can I buy one up front?

Yes, you can pay the total cost of the scheme up front and own the Chromebook from the outset. This will include the management license to make it part of our Google Apps domain.



My child already has a Chromebook.

With the agreement of the parents, students who own a Chromebook already will be able to bring it on to the Academy network as long as it has a battery life of at least 6 hours and when used within the Academy it will be in accordance to our acceptable use policy and safety guidance.

We would need to install our management software in order to enable us to provide them with access to our network, web filters and content management. In return for access to a substantial package of apps that will be provided to students who are members of the scheme, we would request that parents pay a one-off admin fee of £35.

Parents must be aware that we will not be able to offer insurance and repairs for devices purchased outside our scheme. It is strongly recommended that any personal Chromebooks are covered by personal household insurance.



My child has a different device.

Unfortunately, due to the network security and technical difficulties involved they they will not be able to bring their own laptops. It is vital that we make sure that the computers in the classrooms of teachers do not take up important teaching and learning time because technical difficulties need to be resolved. Teachers are not technicians and it is the simplicity of the Chromebook, the long battery life and the rapid boot up time that ultimately led to this choice of device. The computers then become 'invisible' in the classroom and the teaching and learning remains the focus throughout.





Will we be able to access the internet at home?

If you have a wireless network at home the Chromebook will be able to connect to that. If you do not have one at home then we can advise you on your options.

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Emily Dickinson
sts of and washed the spider out
William Shakespeare
ng eye of heaven and dried up al

What happens if the Chromebook gets damaged, lost or stolen?

We have worked hard to provide a balance between cost and insurance cover. The school will provide insurance for accidental damage and theft (if a crime reference number is recorded). Likewise, the warranty will cover any technical problems with the device. However, if your child loses their chromebook the device will not be covered under the insurance policy and you will be liable for the cost of the device. If a student damages their chromebook (or one belonging to another student) deliberately your deposit will become non-refundable and you will be asked to cover any further cost of repair or replacement. Further information about the terms and conditions of the insurance and warranty will be provided.

Why can't the school provide these devices for free?

The school has a limited amount of funding for ICT, which primarily pays for the maintenance of our school network. Equipment for use at home and for personal use by your children is over and above this, which is why we have to ask our families to make a contribution. Without your support the programme cannot go ahead.

I want to join the scheme but simply can't afford it.

A fundamental principle of this scheme is that it is fair and inclusive. We want ALL pupils to benefit from the use of this technology, regardless of financial circumstances. If you are in this position, please contact the school finance office and we will do what we can to help you.

We understand that the scheme could be particularly costly where families have more than one student in the school and urge you to contact us if this makes the scheme financially difficult.

The school receives specific funding (the Pupil Premium) for each child who has received free school meals in the last six years. This funding allows us to subsidise the cost of the Chromebook in some cases. Whilst we would like to be able to do this for everyone, it isn't financially possible. We can only run this programme if parents want it, and are prepared to contribute. We do hope that you will see the benefits for your child and will support this scheme.

The school recognises the importance of IT facilities and continues to invest significantly in this area to maintain an infrastructure that allows students to access high quality resources to support their learning.

What if I change my mind?

Changing your mind halfway through the programme would endanger the existence of the scheme and seriously compromise the school's finances as we will have already purchased the Chromebooks. This is a commitment to the children that needs to be seen through.

