

11th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: ACE Digital – the launch of Apple iPads

I am delighted to inform you that we are nearly ready to launch **ACE Digital**. In its simplest terms, every student at the Academy will be given an Apple iPad to support their learning in lessons and at home.

Our **ACE Digital** strategy supports our ethos of Empowering Learners for Life, ensuring that the school community is ready for the digital world. The 1-2-1 iPad will be used to support learning and teaching in our classrooms and beyond. The iPad is well suited to providing an extensive range of tools and opportunities to support our educational aims. There are a range of technologies that could be beneficial, however after much research, the Academy decided to adopt a 'single device' approach to mobile learning that uses the Apple iPad. It is lightweight, has reliable software, has a high quality screen, can be switched on almost instantly and has a range of tools that can be beneficial in an educational context.

We are looking to roll out the iPads to students early after the Easter holidays to students in current Years 7 – 10. The new Year 7 will receive theirs in September. The summer term will be used to support children to learn how they will be using their iPads in the classroom and at home. The iPad is not intended to replace how we learn or teach (for example we will still use exercise books for students' work), but they are intended to ensure that learning is supported and enhanced even further.

To be absolutely clear at this point, the Academy intends to fully fund this – parents/carers are not being asked to pay or contribute to the cost of the iPad. We want all children that attend The Orme Academy to have access to the highest quality learning experiences. The iPads remain the property of the school and are loaned to the students for the time they are at the school. I am sure you can appreciate the costs are significantly high, so all we ask of parents/carers is that they support the safe use of the equipment. Costs will be incurred to families for negligent loss or damage only.

At the bottom of this letter, are a number of 'Frequently Asked Questions' that will support you in understanding a little more. However, I appreciate that there may be other queries/questions. I have put together a Microsoft Form that you can use to ask any other questions. I will collate these and then update the FAQ in due course or respond directly if appropriate.

Parents/carers and students will also need to read and sign a 'Home School Agreement.' We will get this out to you soon.

I have created a section on the website, where we will store the information and documents relating to **ACE Digital** as it develops. Follow the link here. [ACE Digital - The Orme Academy](#)

Summary and actions:

- iPads will be given to students in current Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 after the Easter break (details of the roll out to follow). There will be no cost to you for this.
- Consider the 'Frequently Asked Questions' (bottom of this letter) for more information.
- Submit any other questions/queries by following this link <https://forms.office.com/e/wZLsGsMPw2>. We will update the FAQs and/or respond directly as appropriate.
- Read and sign the Home School Agreement once it is shared with you.

I am sure you will agree that this is an incredibly important and exciting development at The Orme Academy. We continue to work to enable all member of the school community demonstrate our ethos and underpinning values.

“Empowering Learners for life”

Everything that happens at school is to make us all better people.

‘Empowering Learners for Life’ is held within the **ACE** values:

ASPIRATION – aspire to be the best you can be and get the best out of life.

CHALLENGE – be resilient when things are difficult, work hard, welcome new experiences and engage in learning.

ENJOYMENT – enjoy all aspects of school and build positive relationships.

Yours sincerely



Mark Boughey
Principal

ACE Digital

Frequently Asked Questions (version 1 – March 2024)

Whilst at school

Why this technology?

Our **ACE Digital** supports our ethos of Empowering Learners for Life, ensuring that the school community is ready for the digital world. The 1-2-1 iPad will be used to support learning and teaching in our classrooms and beyond. The iPad is well suited to providing an extensive range of tools and opportunities to support our educational aims. There are a range of technologies that could be beneficial, however after much research, the Academy decided to adopt a 'single device' approach to mobile learning that uses the Apple iPad. It is lightweight, has reliable software, has a high quality screen, can be switched on almost instantly and has a range of tools that can be beneficial in an educational context.

What will it cost?

The school is fully funding the costs of the iPads, for all students. Students are expected to look after the equipment and charges will apply for breakages and lost equipment.

What will the children receive?

Each student will receive an iPad, charger and case for their sole use. These are used in school and at home. Optional extras can be purchased from the school, and these become your property, for example iPad pens and keyboards.

Will students need an iTunes account to use with the iPad?

No. The iPads will not require an account to be used and the ability to add one will be locked out.

Will students be restricted from installing their own music, games or apps?

Yes. The apps will only be available from a controlled source and these elements will not be available.

Will students be allowed to use the school's Wi-Fi network to get internet access?

Yes. Students will only be allowed to access the internet through the school's network while on site. No other network will be allowed, such as hotspots, including 3G, 4G or 5G. Students found violating this policy may have their access revoked.

What happens if the iPad gets lost or damaged?

A home school agreement is in place that outlines usage. It will need to be established if damage was accidental or not and then appropriate steps will be taken as usually following the school's behaviour policy and sanction. Costs will be incurred to families for negligent loss or damage only. It is important that loss or breakages are reported immediately so we can work to resolve the issues. The school will have some iPad devices available for short loan during the time students are without a device, but these are limited.

Who is responsible if another student damages my student's iPad?

Individual students are responsible for their own iPads and should ensure that they take care of it at all times. The normal disciplinary procedures apply in the event of damage to another student's property.

What happens to student work if the iPad is lost/damaged/stolen?

Work and iPads are backed up. In the event that an iPad is lost, all work that has been backed up by syncing will still be available.

How will the school ensure that the devices are secure?

Students must understand that they need to look after their belongings. The devices themselves must also be kept in a protective case to protect from accidental damage. Each student will be identified by the personal identification on the device, which will allow them to easily identify the device from the lock screen. Students will also be expected to follow school guidance on ensuring that device security settings, back up and passwords are set appropriately.

How do we manage the iPad battery?

Students will be expected to charge their iPad each night at home – there are very limited charging facilities in school. The battery life is rated at approximately 10 hours.

What about Internet safety?

The apps available on the iPad are regulated by Apple and access to the internet via our Wi-Fi system is filtered. The school has the right to 'manage' the devices to ensure safe and appropriate use at school. Students have also received an "Acceptable IT Use" policy and have received e-safety briefings and updates to support their understanding of their responsibilities and risks online. The school's standard internet filtering policies apply to the iPad. These filters will block access to any inappropriate content while the device is used on the school network and at home via our cloud filtering service.

For what types of tasks will the iPad be used?

The iPad will be used to access information and online resources. Subject specific apps will also be used to assist in building student knowledge. All class work will be accessible via the iPads allowing constant access to work and revision materials both in school and at home. iPads enhance accessibility for students with SEND. iPads support the school's literacy strategy. iPads provide many other engaging and specialist learning experiences.

Will all teachers be using these devices with the students at all times?

All teachers were issued with an iPad and are receiving extensive training to further their skills and understanding of the use of such technology in the classroom. iPads will be used where appropriate in teaching and learning activities. The extent of their use will vary depending on what is being taught. The device is a tool that should be used to aid learning where appropriate. It will be often used in conjunction with printed text and exercise books.

Will the iPad be used in all classes?

The iPad will be used as a learning tool and will be used in conjunction with a range of more traditional means of teaching and learning including the use of pen and paper! While it is hard to put an exact percentage on their use, our aim over time is that the majority of information that previously was delivered on paper will be given to students through the iPad.

Will students still be writing using pen and paper? Will handwriting skills still be considered important?

Yes, the iPads are being introduced to enhance learning and teaching. Using a pen and paper is still a vital skill for students to learn particularly as examinations will continue to be handwritten at the moment.

How are students prevented from accessing non-educational apps/websites during class time?

Teachers will monitor the use of iPads in the classroom. Misuse of the iPad in class will be treated the same as any other distracting activity such as the misuse of a mobile phone and normal classroom discipline rules will apply. The usual ICT filtering and monitoring systems are in place with iPads. In classrooms, teachers can monitor and control the use of all the iPads centrally via Apple Classroom.

What happens if a student forgets their iPad or forgets to charge it overnight?

The expectation is that students bring their iPads in each day, with at least 80% battery charge. iPads will form part of the school's equipment and uniform expectations, which is checked daily and support/sanctions put in place as normal.

What if my student is not as comfortable using an iPad or as 'tech-savvy' as their friends? How will I set this thing up? How will I help my student download the apps?

Students will be shown how to utilise the iPads during class time. The iPads will be set up in school to use straight away and managed ongoing.

Will we be using electronic textbooks (e books)?

This will vary from subject to subject, but we expect interactive electronic textbooks in some areas.

Can students print from an iPad?

The big picture here is that we are hoping to move away from printing. The need for printing is expected to decrease significantly for all students and staff as a result of 1:1 devices. You can print from an iPad wirelessly using AirPrint. Alternatively, it is very easy to share any file from an iPad via the cloud or email to yourself so it can then be printed from a traditional computer.

Will homework be done on the iPad?

As with teaching, there will be a combination of iPad based homework and the more traditional paper based tasks.

Whilst at home

How will I know how much time my student will need to use the iPad at home for schoolwork?

The time required will depend on the homework that students have to complete. For example, a student who is completing a writing task might only need the iPad for support or not at all. Another student might require more time in order to research and prepare a presentation on a specific topic.

Will I know more detailed information about the homework task so that I can ensure the iPad is being appropriately used for the task?

Homework tasks will be communicated using the same methods that are currently in place. Students should be able to determine whether or not they need the iPad to complete their homework tasks.

Will all homework tasks require the iPad? In what way will the iPad be used for homework tasks?

The iPad will be used as an additional resource to assist students to complete homework tasks. There may be some tasks that will benefit from the use of the iPad and some that will not need it at all. How the iPad is used will vary from subject to subject. Students will be asked to do homework on paper as well as on the iPad.

Do we need Wi-Fi at home?

While not essential, Wi-Fi at home will allow students to fully utilise online resources. Of course, it is ultimately up to families to decide about this option.

How can I ensure my student is not using the iPad inappropriately at home?

Clear boundaries and expectations are the easiest way to achieve this as with the use of all computers in a domestic setting. We recommend that you only allow use of the iPad in open and visible parts of the house, not bedrooms. Establishing a routine where the iPad is checked by parents regularly is also a good idea. The school continues to manage the iPad whilst at home so the filtering systems will still prevent access to inappropriate material.