



May 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for the feedback to our survey regarding Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). The overwhelming response was positive. The feedback has been taken into account along with our staff and student surveys. The areas of concern raised by parents (a summary follows) have been addressed in the new policy.

The policy for BYOD from September 2015 is as follows:

- Non-compulsory in Sixth Form – We do recommend a laptop for Sixth Formers as the most useful device though.
- Non-compulsory in KS4 (Years 10/11) – The device must be capable of word processing, creating simple presentations and movies and accessing the internet via Wi-Fi. This will include mobile phones in KS4 during lesson time only (normal school rules apply at break and lunch and any misuse will result in a C3. Misuse during lessons will also result in a C3).
- RPS has 400 student PCs and 70 iPads available. These will continue to be maintained and updated and be available to KS3, KS4 and KS5 students.

All students must complete and sign an IT Acceptable User Policy which covers the use of BYOD. All use in lessons is at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Student planners have been purchased for the next academic year.

Any device is the property of the owner and needs to be covered by their own insurance.

The school will implement Wi-Fi controls on the guest network that mean users will only need to sign into their device once, unlike the current system. This will also provide a more secure BYOD environment due to the additional firewalls involved.

The school will invest in Lightspeed Web Filtering which will cover both the internal and Wi-Fi networks. This offers the school a greater control of the content we allow in school. This will also track all internet usage both on school owned devices and personal devices when connected to the guest network and this will enable us to provide a secure learning environment and ensure compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy.

According to the student technology demographic survey completed in December 2014, there are only a very small number of students in Year 10 and Yr 11 who do not have a mobile device capable of accessing the internet. The school plans to provide a small bank of mobile devices of suitable specification for those students who are unable to purchase a device/receive Pupil Premium funding. We plan to loan these out on a termly basis.

Device safety – There are enough lockers for every KS3 and KS4 student in the school to have one. We will purchase more lockers for the Sixth Form. We are investigating ways we can work on better allocation of lockers to ensure we know who is using which locker. Sixth Formers also have access to 50 charging (charge their devices) lockers of which over half are being used daily. During PE, changing rooms will be locked while the lesson takes place. Students are instructed to secure their device in their locker prior to the lesson.





If BYOD proves successful in KS4 we will look to roll out the scheme to KS3 from September 2016. If you would like to discuss this further then please contact me at t.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk or 01582 714007 or Dean Inns (Network Manager) at d.inns@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Summary of parental survey

The response was positive. The following concerns were highlighted and now addressed.

Transport - safety of the device on the bus and walking to/from school, weight of the device in bags.

Health - using devices all day every day and then at home as - well-eyesight issues, repetitive strain etc.

Insurance - will it be covered by the school in case of loss, theft or damage?

Lockers - some parents felt that there were not enough lockers (Years 7-11 and Sixth Form), they were not clean, not secure, not near the classroom, there was not enough time between lessons to return to the locker, no secure area when doing PE, they were allocated at the start of Year 7 and some students joined after that; bag racks were not secure.

Type of Device - could be socially divisive; it needs to be affordable; it needs to be compatible with home; writing and spelling properly with good handwriting will suffer.

Academic benefit - not all, only a few teachers use it; hard for teachers to monitor use (and therefore abuse). Will students be taught how to scroll through and use the devices effectively? Isn't it just an added distraction for students in the classroom?

Use - needs to be monitored; needs to be productive (not games); what is the need for this at KS3? I believe my child in Yr 7 wouldn't benefit; how will you manage students being allowed to use phones etc in class but then not at break?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Smith'.

Tony Smith
Deputy Headteacher and Director of Operations

