



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Parmiter's School - Individual Student Chromebooks

As a school, we've long since believed that we need to embrace the technological advances we see in homes and workplaces in order to best prepare our students for life beyond Parmiter's. The events of the past year have allowed us to experience just how beneficial individual access to technology can be. Not only has it opened up a world of new opportunities from a teaching and learning perspective, but it's also allowed students to develop their independence: a crucial life skill.

It follows then that access to technology shouldn't just be something that happens in a few rooms in school, but something that's available for everybody to use, everywhere and at any time. We are therefore taking the first steps towards implementing a plan that would enable one-to-one access to technology for every student at Parmiter's.

In this letter, we'll share our broad plan and some key information on which we would like your feedback. We'll share more practical details (as well as answers to your frequently-asked questions) later this half term once we have reviewed the feedback.

Our plan for Years 7 to 10 from September 2021

Many of you will know that we have been planning for our new Year 7 cohort to start their Parmiter's career with their own Chromebook next academic year. We now plan to extend this so that all students in Years 7 to 10 will have their own Chromebook that they bring into school each day from September 2021.

A Chromebook is a laptop computer powered by Chrome OS. It gives students access to the best bits of Google, including a vast library of Google-approved apps, such as Classroom. We have chosen this device for its lighter weight, longer battery life (lasting 8-10 hours without charging) and speedier boot-up time (under 8 seconds). These features mean that it's easy to both transport and use in class.

Based on our research and our experience of home learning over the last academic year, we expect that individual access to Chromebooks will help students organise, communicate, learn and study more effectively in all subjects, both in school and at home. That being said, please be assured that a move to individual student devices will **not** be a replacement for outstanding classroom-based teaching. We will adopt a blended learning approach, which will involve a mixture of computer-based and face-to-face or handwritten activities. Individual access to technology merely allows us to enhance our current teaching and provide the very best education for our students.

You will be able to purchase a Chromebook through the school. To ensure fairness of experience, there will only be one model available. Based on our current estimations, the package (which includes a Chromebook, a protective carry case, insurance (with zero excess), warranty, software and full on-site support) is likely to cost around £12 per child per month over 36 months. There will be a variety of payment options (including the option to pay in one lump sum) and we will be in a position to be able to offer financial support where required. It is expected that these devices will last students for the duration of their time at Parmiter's. They will be able to keep the device once they leave in either Year 11 or Year 13.

We know that some families have recently purchased Chromebooks for home. Providing they are insured, these can be used in school for a one-off fee of £30. This fee covers the cost of the licence required for your child to access relevant software and will include the school's internet security filters. This enables our safeguarding protocols to be adopted whilst the devices are used at school. Unfortunately, students will not be able to bring alternative devices into school as we aren't able to licence these or provide similar security filters.

Our plan for Years 11 to 13 from September 2021

From September, we would also like Year 12 students to bring an appropriate device to school. This would ideally be a Chromebook (which can be purchased through the school) but it may be that an alternative device is more suitable depending on the subjects they are studying. More advice on this will be offered by departments later in the year.

We have decided not to extend this to students that will be in Year 11 and 13 next academic year. This is primarily for financial reasons. Year 11 and 13 students may/will only require a Chromebook/device for one year, which we've deemed too big an investment for such a short time. In addition, the academic benefit will not be as great since they will be preparing for GCSE and A Level assessments that must be handwritten. Hence the opportunities for students to use their devices will be limited.

Next steps: Let us know your thoughts

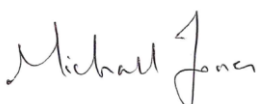
We are extremely excited about the wealth of educational opportunities that this will provide for our students. In fact, we've already started to invest heavily into the infrastructure required to ensure that every student can reliably access the network and all of our digital content across every part of the school site.

Ahead of our planned roll-out for September, we would very much like your feedback. We ask that parents and carers of students who are currently in Years 6 to 9 fill out this [short survey](#). It contains approximately 10 multiple-choice questions, includes an option to leave more detailed feedback at the end and should take no more than a few minutes to complete.

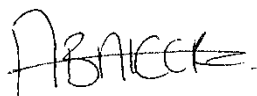
Parents/carers of students currently in Years 10 to 12 should email their feedback to admin@parmiters.herts.sch.uk.

Following the close of the survey at 3.20pm on Friday 30 April, we will be in touch again with more information as well as answers to any frequently asked questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Jones
Headmaster



Mr A Baker
Assistant Headteacher