



	Existing iPad from Year 8 - For Year 9 only  <i>A keyboard is recommended.</i>	Apple MacBook  <i>All current models can be used</i>	Windows Netbook  <i>Please follow the guidelines below</i>
Approved For	Years 7-9	Years 9-12	Years 9-12
Approximate Cost of Device	No cost (Retain device from Year 7/8)	Parent choice (Higher models are expensive. Consider if the cost is appropriate for school use)	Parent choice. Wide range of models and pricing.
Purchase options	N/a – existing student device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple Store (e.g. Southland) Ask for 'MGSC Family Funded Program' (discounted prices) Retail supplier of your choice Existing Macbook that meets the <u>minimum specifications</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail supplier of your choice Existing netbook that meets the <u>minimum specifications</u>.
Key Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay cost of laptop Move to laptop later in Year 9 or at the start of Year 10 iPad may not be at end of life Familiarity with the device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preference for Apple iOS Progression from the iPad Preferred device for some VCE studies (not essential) Exceptional battery charge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preference for Windows OS Touchscreen devices are available Can be lower cost than MacBook
Minimum Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current iPad being used by your daughter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than two years old Operating system - OSX 10.7 or higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than two years old Screen size –maximum 14" Battery life - at least 6 hours Operating System – Windows 7, 8.1 or 10 4GB RAM minimum Celeron or higher (not Atom) Not a ChromeBook
Hard Drive / Storage Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32GB is sufficient for school work and moderate personal use. Higher storage models are a personal choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid State Drives (SSD) are faster and non-mechanical, so are less prone to damage when being carried around. 128GB is sufficient for software, school work and moderate personal use. 256GB would be useful but not essential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid State Drives (SSD) are faster and non-mechanical, so are less prone to damage when being carried around. 128GB is sufficient for software, school work and moderate personal use. 256GB would be useful but not essential.
Software / Apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Apps for Education Continue with Year 8 Apps Add new apps if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Apps for Education (Free – Docs, Sheets, Slides) iOS apps supplied with the MacBook Can use MS Office* DET eduSTAR software (2017). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Apps for Education (Free – Docs, Sheets, Slides) Can use MS Office* DET eduSTAR software.

* Students can download the Microsoft Office 365 software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, One Note) for free, using their @mgsc eMail address. Visit <https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/education/students/default.aspx> for details.

Selecting a Laptop Device

In selecting a laptop device, parents should carefully review the options above. Please also consider the following:

- Total cost – including any optional damage insurance (recommended)
- Compulsory, protective bag that your daughter will be comfortable using and will use around school
- **Portability** (maximum screen size of 14”) and ease of carrying to, from and around the College
- **Battery life** – 6 hours or more (Device must last the school day without the need for re-charging)
- Potential cost of repair if dropped, drink spilled, etc. (Insurance is recommended)
- **All devices should be purchased in Australia**
- **All devices must have an English language operating system installed**, for technical support purposes.

The final device cost to families will vary depending on the device selected, the type of insurance taken out and the preferred method of payment or financing.

Selecting a MacBook

- All MacBooks are suitable for school, though parents should consider the implications of the more expensive models being used at school.
- MacBooks are lightweight and have adequate battery charge for the school day.
- If your daughter is likely to store a lot of photos, videos or music on her laptop, consider buying a cheaper model (e.g. Air) and upgrading the hard drive to 256GB, rather than buying a more expensive model with less storage.

Suggested Purchase Options for New MacBooks

1. Apple Store or Apple Store Online

Use the Mentone Girls' S.C. "**Apple Family Funded Program**" to access discounted prices on Apple products, including, iPads, MacBooks and accessories.

- **Visit an Apple Retail Store** and advise the store staff that your daughter is a student at Mentone Girls' SC
OR
- **Visit the MGSC Online Apple Store** using the Mentone Girls' S.C. Family Funded Program link on the College website at <http://mgsc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/elearning/>

The Apple Store sometimes has interest free options that can allow you to spread the cost over time

*** Please note: Mentone Girls S.C. does not have any commercial interest with Apple.*

2. Retail supplier of your choice – many retailers have special prices.

(Alternatively, the Apple Store will often match a competitor's prices if you ask them to).

Selecting a Windows Netbook

- Netbooks are smaller than traditional laptops and are designed for portability, as well as having adequate battery charge for the school day.
- Full-sized laptops are too large and too heavy for school use. Also, battery charge may not last the school day.
- **Please do not select a Chromebook version of a netbook.** We are currently unable to connect Chromebooks to the College wi-fi.
- Advice on choosing Windows devices is also available on the Microsoft Education website at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/education/for-parents/default.aspx>

Software

Mentone Girls S.C. uses the **G Suite For Education** environment for teaching and learning. All students are provided with a college managed G Suite for Education account. This includes access to eMail, unlimited file storage, Google Docs (word processing), Google Sheets (spreadsheets) and Google Slides (presentations), as well as other online tools.

In addition, students can download the **Microsoft Office 365** software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote), at no cost, using their @mgsc eMail address. Visit <https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/education/students/default.aspx> for details.

Windows and Mac versions are available.

Additional Information

Device Connectivity to the College Network

Please refer to the table above for acceptable device specifications. The College cannot guarantee connection of devices that do not meet these specifications. The College will also not be obliged to connect laptops with screen sizes greater than 14" or with battery life of less than 6 hours.

Protective Bags for Devices *REQUIRED for all devices*

A dedicated bag MUST be used to protect the device when carrying to, from and around the College. Please select a suitable bag/case that is designed for maximum protection for student use.

Hardware Warranty Cover

- It is advisable to check the warranty period and the level of warranty cover, as well as the arrangements for making a warranty claim. For example, is the warranty for one year or longer? Does the device need to be returned to the retailer or the manufacturer? Can extended warranties be purchased, e.g. three years, or onsite support?
- iPad and Apple MacBook warranties are determined and managed by Apple.

Device Insurance *HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for all devices*

Unfortunately, damage caused by dropping of devices, not using the carry case and spillage of drinks does occur. Repair costs without insurance can be expensive. Insurance does add to the purchase price, but spread over two to three years, it is a small cost for added peace of mind and it will save you money if accidents occur.

- **Apple Devices** – AppleCare insurance can be arranged directly with Apple.
- **Windows Devices** - various insurance options for accidental damage and accidental damage & theft are available from retailers and manufacturers.

Parents are advised to read the terms and conditions of insurance policies before committing to them. For example, how much can be claimed on a policy. This may be limited to the value of the device. Parents may also investigate whether devices can be included or added to existing household/other insurance policies.

Accidental Damage Claims

- Parents will contact the insurance provider for any damage claims (subject to the insurance cover taken out). The ICT Helpdesk can provide an informal, preliminary visual assessment and advice on damaged units if necessary.
- Be careful not to use unauthorised repairer services for any damage or issues that are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Such work will generally void the hardware warranty.

M.G.S.C. Technical Support

Technical support for B.Y.O. devices is mostly limited to connectivity to the College Wi-Fi service. Our I.T. Helpdesk staff can provide general software and hardware troubleshooting and advice. Other software and all hardware warranty issues need to be addressed by parents directly with Apple or the Windows device manufacturer.

Acceptable Use Agreements

All students using the College network and ICT equipment are required to read and sign an Acceptable Use Agreement. This agreement covers a range of areas, including digital citizenship, cybersafety and responsible use of school ICT resources.

Software for MacBooks and Netbooks

1. **G Suite For Education** – Standard environment for all M.G.S.C. students – includes Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides and others. G Suite accounts are provided to all students on enrolment at the College.
2. **Mac OS Apps** – included by Apple with new MacBooks.
3. **Microsoft Office 365** – available for students to download at no cost using their @mgsc eMail address.
4. **D.E.T. eduSTAR Software** – the eduSTAR software suite includes educational programs made available by the Department of Education.