



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'

Dear Parents,

Tadcaster Grammar School – Chromebooks for Learning Scheme

I am writing with further information regarding our exciting *Chromebook for Learning* scheme, which gives all of our new Year 7 students the opportunity to own their own Chromebook for use in lessons and at home.

What is a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is a kind of laptop computer, running Google Chrome as its operating system. The device is used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and data residing in "the cloud". Chromebooks differ from a normal laptop in that a robust 'device management system' allows for strict monitoring of use, internet filtering and other vital e-Safety restrictions whilst in school.

Why have we introduced the Chromebooks for Learning scheme?

The school launched this initiative last September, and students currently in Year 7 are using chromebooks on a regular basis in lessons, and also benefit from the devices to complete some of their homework. The use of chromebooks does not replace, but supplements our existing learning strategies. Importantly chromebooks give students seamless access to Google Apps for Education, (G-Suite) which are being used increasingly across the school to enhance the learning experience. 'Google Classroom' in particular is an extremely powerful application, which offers collaborative and interactive educational activities, effective online feedback and improved communication between teacher, student and even parent.

All of our teaching staff have received training in the use of the Google education environment, and we also have members of staff who act as 'Google Leaders', some of whom have gained accredited 'Google Educator' certification. They work across the curriculum to ensure effective use of G-Suite and the Chromebooks, by providing further training and guidance to both staff and students.

We believe the scheme has been extremely successful, which is why we are so keen to offer the same opportunity to the students joining Tadcaster Grammar School in September 2019.

Do we have to take part in the Chromebooks for Learning scheme?

Although we hope families will take up this opportunity ***there is no obligation on parents to contribute to the scheme, as it is entirely voluntary.*** Students who do not have their own device will be able to borrow a chromebook when required, but will need to collect and return it to our ICT support team before and after use. We must stress, however, that without your support we will be unable to fully and effectively deliver this initiative.

What are the next steps?

We are offering families the opportunity to purchase a device for a reasonable and competitive monthly direct debit payment, which will be significantly cheaper than the equivalent available on the high street. At the end of the payment period, the chromebook will be yours to keep.

What is included?

You will receive:

- a touchscreen Acer spin 311 Chromebook
- a Google education licence which allows the device to be safely managed whilst in school
- a protective carry case
- education specific **accidental damage**
- a three year warranty
- software and full on-site support whilst your child remains a student at Tadcaster Grammar School.

Can I provide my own chromebook?

You can, if you wish, purchase a chromebook elsewhere for your son or daughter to use in school. It must meet the same specification as the devices offered by the scheme, and you will also need to order a 'Google education licence' through the school to allow it to benefit from the applications and device management we offer. This is a one-off cost of £20.00.

Please see the attached information sheet, and visit the *Chromebooks for Learning* page on the school website under the 'Parents' tab ([Click here](#)) which contains further information regarding the scheme. It also includes answers to frequently asked questions.

LINK: <https://web.tgsch.uk/parents/chromebook-11/>

We will be holding an information evening about the scheme on Tuesday 4th June which will start at 6.30pm and finish around 7.30 pm.

This evening is designed to provide you with a better understanding of the initiative and how and when the "rollout" to the students will take place. There will also be an opportunity to speak to representatives from Freedom Technology who are managing the scheme on our behalf, and to some of our current Year 7 students about their experiences.

If you have any concerns or questions not addressed by the information sheet or web page, please contact chromebooks@tgs.starmat.uk.

Mr M Dunphy

Assistant Headteacher.