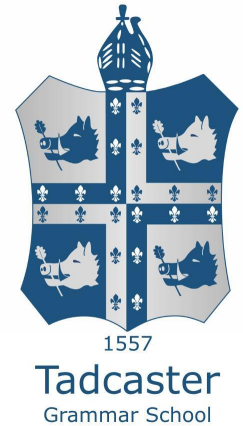


Be Your Best Self

March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers



Tadcaster Grammar School – Chromebooks for Learning Scheme

I am writing with further information relating to our *Chromebook for Learning* scheme:

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 three years ago. Students currently in Years 7, 8 and 9 are using chromebooks on a regular basis in lessons, and also benefit from the devices to complete some of their homework. They have proven to be invaluable as an aid to remote learning over the last few months, and staff have been able to set regular online work, safe in the knowledge that students have access to the technology they require to access it. Although face to face learning is thankfully returning in full, we still need to ensure that ICT provision for students is the most effective to engage them, and enhance learning.

The use of chromebooks does not replace, but supplements our existing learning strategies. Importantly chromebooks give students seamless access to Google Workspace for Education, which is 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.

Do students 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 participate in 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.



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What are the next steps?

We will be offering families the opportunity to purchase a device outright, or for a reasonable and competitive monthly direct debit payment, which will be significantly cheaper than the equivalent available on the high street. (Please bear in mind that high street prices will *not* include three year insurance and warranty, which would need to be added to any competitive price.) At the end of the payment period, the chromebook will be yours to keep.

Ordering your chromebook

The online portal, where you can order a device from our partner 'Freedomtech Technology' will be opened on **1st June** and close on **23rd July**. The first Direct Debit will be taken on: **25th August** and we will expect delivery of the chromebooks before the start of the school year.

to order visit <https://www.tech4learners.co.uk/users/login> using the following credentials:

Username: Y7Tad2021

Password: S3cure02!

What is included?

You will receive:

- 11.6" Lenovo 300e chromebook
- a Google education licence which allows the device to be safely managed whilst in school
- education specific three year **accidental damage insurance**
- a full **three year warranty**, offering immediate replacement whilst repairs are undertaken, or a permanent replacement is being processed
- software and full on-site support whilst your child remains a student at Tadcaster Grammar School.
- A protective carry case for the device

Can I provide my own chromebook?

You can, if you wish, purchase a chromebook elsewhere for your child 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 £25.00. (see website for more details)

Please 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.

We would normally hold an information evening about the scheme in the summer term, designed to provide you with a better understanding of the initiative and how and when the "rollout" to the students will take place. Unfortunately we are unable to schedule this at present, but If you have any concerns or questions not addressed by the attached information sheet or web page, please contact chromebooks@tgs.starmat.uk.

Mr M Dunphy

Assistant Headteacher.