LILYDALE HEIGHTS COLLEGE

Digital Devices

May 2026

Bring your own Device (BYOD)

The College provides access to internet, email, printing, shared Windows/Mac desktop computers and other ICT services. However, the use of eBooks and other digital learning resources requires one-to-one access to a personal student computer. This device is always required to be fully functional and available to students.

We expect every student to have BYOD as per school requirements. You have two options to source your device.

Option 1. School-Recommended BYOD (Strongly Preferred).

This is the default option for most families. Please choose this unless you meet the criteria for Option 2.

The College provides an online portal where you can buy a school-recommended device and optional items, either outright or with finance. Some models include educational pricing.

https://notebooks.lilydaleheights.vic.edu.au/

The portal offers a small range of recommended devices. We provide basic technical support to connect your device to the school IT systems and help with onsite warranty claims and repairs. *In many cases, this support can significantly reduce the time your child is without their device if a fault or damage occurs.*
Recommended devices may change over time based on availability.

Option 2. BYOD of your choice (only if Option 1 is not suitable).

Choose this only if you already have, or must buy, a different device and can ensure it meets all school requirements.

This option is for families who already have a suitable device, or who believe they can get a computer that better fits their child's learning needs or family circumstances.
We will provide basic technical support to connect your device to the school systems, but you are responsible for all warranty claims and repairs.
Your device must meet the following minimum specifications.

BYOD Quick Specification Reference 2026

	Windows BYOD	Apple BYOD
Screen Size	**11.6" or bigger.** **Note**: device in carry bag should be small enough to fit inside a student locker	
Storage	**Sufficient free space for school documents** (120GB or greater is recommended)	
Memory	**8GB** or greater. **Note**: Laptops with 4 GB of RAM underperform noticeably and reduce overall productivity.	
Wi-Fi	**802.11N** or **802.11AC** (dual band recommended)	
Battery	Advertised battery life of **6.5 hours or greater**. **Please note that a long battery life is essential for the school environment.**	
Operating System	Windows **11** **Attention**: Windows Home **S mode** must be switch out before connecting to the school network. Windows 10 is not supported anymore.	macOS **15 Sequoia, 26 Tahoe** (macOS Tahoe has been tested in version 26.5)
Warranty	Attention: We highly recommend extended 3-year warranty and insurance for your device	

Insurance & Warranty

Student laptops are used heavily, so damage and faults are common. Recommended devices include a 3-year education warranty with accidental damage cover. If you bring your own device, consider durability and repair costs or delays. Extending the warranty and adding insurance is strongly recommended.

Chromebook Laptops and Android tablets

Chromebook laptops and Android tablets are not supported by the College. We request that families do not purchase these devices for school use and instead choose devices that are supported by the College.

iPads and Windows tablets

iPads and Windows tablets may only be used as companion devices and cannot be a student's primary school device. Every student must have a primary laptop that meets the College's device requirements. Companion tablets are optional and are used in addition to, not instead of, the required laptop.

Apple MacBook Laptops

You may purchase a MacBook from Apple using an educational discount. This option is subject to Apple's terms and conditions and is provided for convenience only. It does not imply that the school recommends or requires Apple laptops.

https://www.apple.com/au-hed/shop

Microsoft Family Safety / Parental Controls

We do not recommend using Microsoft Family Safety or similar parental control tools on school devices, as they may interfere with normal operation and school applications. If you choose to use these tools, please ensure that consent requirements for your child are disabled and that screen time or app restrictions do not interfere with school hours or required learning activities.

Windows Home Edition in S Mode

Windows Home in S mode is not supported. Families must switch out of S mode so the device runs the full version of Windows Home before it is used at school. For instructions, search online for "Switching out of S mode in Windows" and follow the steps on the official Microsoft support page.

Microsoft Office Software

You do not need to purchase Microsoft Office. It is provided free of charge to students by the College. The installation package can be downloaded from the BYOD portal https://byod.lilydaleheights.vic.edu.au

Antivirus Software

You do not need to purchase antivirus software. Compatible Windows devices include built-in antivirus protection. For Mac laptops, *keeping the operating system updated* is the most important step to maintain security.

Using Digital Devices at School

Students can use shared school computers, the internet, and email, and may also bring their own devices, as long as they follow the school's digital policies and the terms and conditions of the Digital Devices Program.

You can find more information about the program at:

https://www.lilydaleheights.vic.edu.au/learning/digital-devices/

Financial Hardship and Support

If your family is experiencing financial hardship, please contact the Principal or Business Manager to talk about possible support options.

The latest version of this BYOD Information and Quick Specification Reference is available at:
https://www.lilydaleheights.vic.edu.au/document/byod-information-and-quick-specification-reference/