



THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

# Digital Device Requirements

As a minimum, the School's requirements for a suitable learning device are as follows:

- an integrated camera and microphone (front and rear facing camera recommended)
- a touchscreen and an accompanying stylus for digital inking
- an integrated or attachable keyboard
- the ability to access a Wi-Fi network
- battery life that will last a full school day (7-8 hours) on one charge under normal usage or conditions

## Device choice:

A wide array of devices that meet the requirements are available, at a range of price points:

- Microsoft Surface laptop / Windows PC laptop
  - Windows 10 Home or Pro OS, AMD Ryzen 3 or Intel i3 processor, 8 GB RAM, 256 GB HDD
- Google Chromebook
  - Intel Core i3 Based, 2 processor cores, 8 GB RAM, 64 GB Storage
- Apple MacBook (separate hardware / software also required to support digital inking)
- Apple iPad – not recommended
  - Full screen size, iPad Air 2 or later, 32GB of storage

## Further device information:

### Microsoft Surface laptop, or Windows PC laptop

- The widest range of choice with regards to make, specifications, design and costs.
- Pupils using a Windows laptop or a Surface of any type will be able to download a full complimentary copy of Microsoft Office 365 for the duration of their time at PGS.
- All the Google Workspace for Education suite of applications that we use at PGS can be accessed via the web-browser (we recommend installing Google Chrome for this).
- All pupils also get access to both Google Drive and Office 365 OneDrive file storage.
- If looking at Microsoft Surface products, we recommend a Surface Go 3 as being your first point-of-call.
- Minimum specific technical specifications; Windows 10 Home or Pro OS (NOT Windows 10 S please), AMD Ryzen 3 or Intel i3 processor, 8 GB RAM, 256 GB HDD.

### Google Chromebook

- Chromebooks are web-based devices so the vast majority of work on them is done via a browser (most likely Google Chrome). This is perfectly compatible with all the School's major software platform and cloud storage.
- Chromebooks are renowned for being very quick to load and particularly well-protected from viruses and malware. They also come at a huge range of cost points and are often hybrid laptops with the ability to fold the screen back or detach from the keyboard and use purely as a tablet if you wish.

- The average battery life of a Chromebook is estimated at 10.5 hours so you should never need to worry about charging it during a school day.
- Minimum specific technical specifications; Intel Core i3 Based, 2 processor cores, 8 GB RAM, 64 GB Storage.

### **Apple MacBook**

- Any of Apple's current range of MacBooks would be suitable for in-school usage, and Macbook OS is still particularly renowned for its creative-based applications and abilities.
- MacBook's are often significantly more expensive than Windows Laptops or Chromebooks, however. They are, thus, not the device of choice for most families.
- Both Google Workspace for Education and Microsoft Office 365 are available as browser-based suites of applications on a MacBook.
- Additional software / hardware is needed to add digital inking capability but it is possible to use a stylus with a Macbook – either through the use of the software + the trackpad, a graphics pad or a linked iPad.

### Apple iPad – not our recommended device

- No longer a preferred choice of device as the majority of apps used are now browser-based as opposed to exclusively iOS- based.
- A keyboard attachment is essential for proper academic usage (a screen protector and protective casing also helpful for durability too).
- An Apple Pencil stylus is market leading but not essential.
- We recommend any iPad that is newer than, and including, an iPad Air 2 (2016).
- At least 32GB of storage and a full size screen (i.e. an Apple iPad Mini is not appropriate for school usage) are essential. Any of Apple's current range that fulfils these requirements will be suitable for school use.
- If your child already has an iPad that meet this requirements then it would be suitable for school work – but if you are purchasing a device for Y9 upwards, we do not recommend purchasing an iPad.