

BYOD device requirements for PGS pupils from September 2025

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

- laptop-style not tablet-style (an iPad is not suitable)
- the ability to access a wi-fi network
- 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
- 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 **minimum** requirements are available, at a range of price points:

- Windows PC laptop
 - Windows 11 OS, AMD Ryzen 5 or Intel i5 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 would also be required to support digital inking

Further device information:

Windows PC laptop

- The widest range of choice with regards to make, specifications, design and costs.
- Pupils using a Windows laptop 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.
- Minimum specific technical specifications: Windows 11 (not Windows 11S please), AMD Ryzen 5 or Intel i5 processor, 8 GB RAM, 256 GB HDD.

Google Chromebook

- Chromebooks are web-based devices so the vast majority of work on them is down via a browser (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 range of cost points and are often hybrid laptops with the ability to fold the screen back or detach from the keyboard.
- The average battery life of a Chromebook is estimated at 10.5 hours so should not require charging during the school day.
- Chromebooks also come with Google Play store so allow for mobile apps to be installed as well as applications accessed via the web browser.

- 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 or a graphics pad.