BSSC BYOD Program 2017

Students studying at BSSC in 2017 will be required to supply their own notebook/tablet device for use at BSSC as part of our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program. This document provides details to assist students in obtaining a suitable device.

Why do students need a device?
Students need to be able to electronically communicate, create content, interact with others and electronically submit work while studying at BSSC. If you would like further details than those supplied in this document please visit the BYOD section of the college website, using the following link: http://www.bssc.edu.au/enrolments/byod/.

What type of BYOD do students need and where should students obtain a device from?
There are a wide range of devices which would be suitable as a BYOD. Technical details describing devices which would be suitable are listed under the “Suitable BYOD” section below. However, before deciding what device you should obtain you should consider all the advice in this document.

It is a requirement that devices are capable of connecting to the college’s network, interacting with online sites and have the capacity to run a version of Microsoft Office. All devices should have a keyboard and where a student elects to utilise an iPad/tablet style device a compatible keyboard should also be obtained for use. Microsoft Office is available to all students at no cost for all devices detailed under the “Suitable BYOD” section below. Students will be provided advice and assistance in how to obtain and install Microsoft Office during Step-Up and throughout 2017 as required. MS Office software is provided as a subscription and remains active while the student is enrolled at BSSC. A 24 month license to Adobe Design and Web K-12 Collection is an optional item available for a small cost of $20 on the booklist. This can be purchased and installed on compatible student BYOD MacBooks and Windows Notebooks.

Although not a requirement, there may be advantages for some students in having a more powerful notebook than those generally recommended. Students should discuss this with their teachers during the Step-Up program and check the BYOD section of the college’s website for further details. However, for all subjects the only requirement is that students have a device that meets with the details under the “Suitable BYOD” section below.

For students planning to purchase a new device we have set up a portal with Learning with Technologies (LWT) and a portal with Apple to assist – see details of this below.

Where can I purchase a new device from?
We have setup two portals for use by BSSC students/parents from which they can purchase new BYODs. The LWT portal includes a number of suitable Windows devices, while the Apple portal includes a range of Apple devices. There is more information about these suppliers/sites on the BYOD section of the college’s website. The LWT and Apple portal can be accessed as per the following:

- LWT portal @ http://bssc.orderportal.com.au/
- Apple portal @ (first go to http://www.bssc.edu.au/enrolments/byod/ then click the link to the Apple store on our page).

Even if you are planning on purchasing a device elsewhere you should find that the LWT portal will provide an idea of suitable Windows BYODs and a range of price points, while the Apple portal provides device prices inclusive of educational discounts on selected Apple products. If you do check out either of these portals (especially the LWT portal) also be aware that some of their products may include an extended warranty and you should take this into consideration if comparing products/prices with other suppliers. We strongly recommend you purchase an extended warranty with any new BYOD you purchase. Apple refer to this as AppleCare, whereas LWT offer a number of warranty and insurance options dependant on device ordered. Our college receives no percentages of cost or financial advantage from any purchases students/parents make from these companies and we suggest them for a number of reasons further detailed on the BYOD section of the college’s website.
Suitable BYOD

A Windows Notebook or an Apple MacBook are the most compatible devices for the BYOD program at BSSC and are therefore the devices we would most strongly advise students to obtain and use. While subject to all other considerations detailed in this document two new devices that would be ideal for most students are:

- An Apple Notebook – a 13-inch MacBook Air @ $1441* (+AppleCare @ $254.10), or a
- Windows Device – a Lenovo 11e Yoga 3rd Gen 11.6” Core i3 Touch Convertible Laptop with Stylus @ $882.20* (+3 year onsite warranty @ $99).

*These prices and products description were correct as of 7 Nov 2016 from Apple and LWT respectively and are subject to change.

There are many other devices besides these which would be suitable and the following provides some general specifications to check against and some other possible options.

If you are looking to buy a BYOD or use a second-hand Windows Notebook / MacBook then be aware that any currently owned or second hand MacBook or Windows device you plan to use as a BYOD at BSSC should exceed the “Minimum Device Specifications” and any new MacBook or new Windows device you purchase should exceed the “Recommended Device Specifications” in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Minimum Device Specifications</th>
<th>Recommended Device Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screen</td>
<td>10” Minimum</td>
<td>11.6” or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory (RAM)</td>
<td>2GB or higher</td>
<td>4GB or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDD/SSD</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>128GB or Higher (SSD recommended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery Life</td>
<td>3 hours or more</td>
<td>6 hours or more</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating System (Windows)</td>
<td>Windows 7 or higher</td>
<td>Windows 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System (Mac)</td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.7 or higher</td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.11 or 10.12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

iPads with a keyboard can also be used as a BYOD. Tablets running Windows 8 or higher with a keyboard are acceptable as a BYOD and really function as per a Windows device, although dependant on the model may have minimal specifications. Tablets running Windows RT 8.0 or higher with a keyboard are also acceptable as a BYOD.

There are limitation in using iPads and some other tablet devices as a primary BYOD and before deciding to use such a device you should consider further details on the BYOD section of the college’s website.

In selecting a suitable BYOD there are a range of other aspects you should consider which include obtaining a device that is not too heavy or large. These factors are further detailed on the BYOD section of the college’s website.

Devices which are not suitable as a primary BYOD

Android tablets, Chromebooks, Amazon Fire Tablets and devices other than those listed as suitable above may connect and work to some extent at the college but we do not recommend that such devices are suitable as a primary BYOD tool. As per the advice about Mobile Phones (below) students may choose to use these devices at school but they should be thought of as an additional device to a primary BYOD. Due to the variability and limitations of these other devices technical support from college staff in relation to these devices may be limited.

Mobile Phones can be used but are not enough

While an iPhone or an Android based smartphones may connect to the college’s wireless network, they are not considered a replacement for a suitable primary device (BYOD). Students may be able to use their smartphone for a range of educational purposes – including access to Compass (the school portal for a range of educational and managerial functions), email and a range of other educational apps and sites.

Further and/or updated advice about the BSSC BYOD program

Further details and updates can be found on the BYOD section of the college’s website at: