



Sheet Two

How much time will students use the Laptops in the classroom?

The amount of time the MacBooks will be used will vary from day to day depending on the discretion of the teacher and the task involved.

- The 'whole - part - whole' pedagogy on how we teach will not change. Students will still be involved in lessons where they move around the room, are split into ability based groups and will use Technology in some of these groups, not all of them.
- Students will still participate in Physical Education, Drama, Music, Italian and Science. While there may be occasions where technology is used in these classes, these subjects generally lend themselves to more 'hands on' activities like sports games, experiments, playing instruments and creating dramatisations.

Thus the amount of use depends on each individual student's needs, as well as the activity or project at hand. No child will be sitting exclusively in front of their laptop, not moving, not walking around, not playing outside etc. Balance and common sense is the key.

Will my child's basic Literacy and Numeracy suffer?

MacBooks are a highly effective learning tool designed to *complement and enhance* the current teaching and learning programs at Mater Christi. By no means will they be used as a replacement of the excellent programs currently taking place within each classroom. Numeracy, Literacy and handwriting skills that are part of the Australian Curriculum will continue to be taught at Mater Christi. The MacBooks offer teachers the ability to employ more extensive approaches to Literacy and Numeracy including scope for more individualised instruction at the point of need.

How will we support students with their posture?

- The MacBook Air is the same weight as a litre of water. It is one of the lightest, compact products on the market.
- Especially in Year 4, students will need to be reminded to check their bags before they leave school each afternoon to ensure they are not taking unnecessary items home.
- Teachers will have Professional Development from both an OT and a Physio prior to the rollout of the program. We will also have student workshops to ensure all students in the program maintain good posture / wear their schoolbags properly etc. There will also be a workshop for parents too.
- As has happened in Year 6, Mater Christi is working towards replacing much of its outdated furniture. The contemporary furniture encourages students to get up regularly and move around the room to an area appropriate to the task they are completing.

How will parents be kept informed on the programs progress?

- For the first 2.5 years of the program, updates will be available on the school's website detailing what is happening throughout the program.
- Class teachers will also share the children's work and ICT updates in the Class Blog.
- One of the benefits in a 1 to 1 program is that parents will be able to see much of what is going on at school as the device (and all the work saved on it) will be going home each night.
- Students will also be taught the necessary skills so that parent reliance at home is minimal. Students learn very quickly and it won't be long before they are teaching you some of their amazing skills.
- We are also keen to provide opportunities for parents to learn. Mater Christi will be holding a '1 to 1 Boot Camp' in Term 2 next year if the program was to go ahead.
- If there is interest, students, teachers and Winthrop Technicians would also be able to hold more regular sessions as the need arises. This will allow parents to enhance their child's learning at home and learn how to use some of the parent control features offered on a Mac Platform.

What if not everyone in the class has a MacBook?

- Teachers will still have access to the schools bank of MacBooks. In this situation, students without a 1 to 1 device may need to share a school device and won't have it available at home.
- Those who have their own device will typically complete tasks quicker and more efficiently because they have more access, including at home.

Will there be a new ICT policy in light of a 1 to 1 Program?

- The school's IT Team together with parent and student input will also release a detailed ICT policy that is in line with the new 1 to 1 program. This policy will deal with issues such as Cyber Bullying, What is appropriate content to store on the computer, how to limit screen time at home, Social Media at school, email and the expectations on parents to enforce this at home. We will be inviting two parents to be part of this team for Policy Development.

Why have iPads not been considered?

They have been considered.

- The decision to go with the MacBook device was made, as we believe it is the best fit for our students, staff and families at this point in time as the school has invested well in Teacher Development and also laptops within the school.
- **This does not mean** that the decision will not be looked at again in the future or that we believe iPads are not an effective learning tool (we have iPads in the junior grades of the school).

Will the curriculum change?

- No, as we have said previously, Mater Christi believes that ICT needs to be woven throughout all learning areas. We believe that technology needs to be integrated to *enhance and improve* student outcomes in many different learning areas, rather than being a stand-alone subject, where only ICT skills are taught.

What does MCCPS plan to do in the ICT Area if this proposal does not go ahead?

- We will continue to run our ICT programs with the devices we have available at the moment.
- The lease on the current Year 4 - 6 devices are due to run out at the end of 2016 and a decision on exactly what device these would be replaced with would be made towards the end of Term 3, however at this stage, the MacBook Air Laptop is the preferred option at Mater Christi.