



May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: '1:1 Digital Device Strategy' (May 2021)

It's finally here: Coventry is the UK City of Culture! This is something to celebrate and engage with as the city becomes a focal point for the country over the coming months. A real opportunity exists to celebrate diversity, creativity, culture, difference and togetherness as we look towards the future and start to shape it into what we would collectively want it to look like.

As teachers and parents, we are also continuously looking at ways to equip our young people with the opportunities and tools to grow and shape their future. To support this, from September 2021 we are looking to build on the skills students developed in their online learning over the past year as we expand our 'Bring your own device' (BYOD) in the Sixth Form into a '1:1 Digital Device' strategy for younger students. Research conducted by the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) shows that if implemented in the right way, students who have access to digital devices to support their learning can really benefit from its use. (<https://tinyurl.com/dc9b868b>). We took the '1:1 Digital Device' policy to the recent Parent Forum in April to elicit views from parents. (<https://youtu.be/FL6cAvSGOTQ>). We have met with a number of schools, some in Coventry and some nationally, that already have a 1:1 Digital Device policy for all students. These different elements of research are helping us develop our support and implementation strategy.

In broad terms, students would be able to bring their own digital device to school from home (a laptop or tablet) and use the free Wi-Fi in school to support their learning in lessons. Alternatively, parents/carers would be able to purchase a device through the school over a period of months. Subject to the choice of scheme we use, this would be in the region of £12 per month over 3 years. These devices would come with warranty and insurances built in to the scheme and would be 20% cheaper than the high street price. Families who could not afford to purchase a device would be supported by the school so that no student would be excluded from the strategy and all would benefit from it. There will be a small number of devices available for daily loan for families that choose to opt out of the scheme. It would not be appropriate for digital devices to be used in all lessons of course or indeed for the whole lesson; there would be occasions when writing with a pen is still required. Students will be taught how to use these devices safely and responsibly by their teachers. Technology does not replace the need for good teaching, but can supplement it. *'The principles of how to use technology successfully are not distinct from questions of how to teach effectively or how children learn'*. They would need to bring the digital device into school fully charged each day having charged it overnight, much like a mobile phone. More details will follow this term about the implementation of this strategy including an 'acceptable use' policy for students.

I would like to invite all parents and carers to take part in our survey to help us in the next steps of the construction of our '1:1 Digital Device' strategy. <https://tinyurl.com/n4c7afbf>. Students are completing their survey today.

As the school expands by 30 extra students from September, we have been recruiting staff to cater for this expansion. Whilst it is natural and healthy for staff to be externally promoted and leave the school, there have been no resignations amongst the teaching staff this year, giving us real stability for the year ahead. The hard work, skill and determination of our staff is a constant source of joy to me and something I am very grateful for.

School attendance for the year to date is also at unprecedented levels, beating all our targets and placing us top in the city across all measures. This is clearly enabling our young people to re-engage with learning and close any gaps that they may have experienced during the lockdowns.

I wish all our young people an enjoyable and restful half term, with hopefully some improving weather!

Yours faithfully,

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