

Rossmoyne Senior High School

2017 One-to-One Computer Program

The school commenced a 1:1 parent funded computer program in 2014, which required parents of Year 8 and Year 9 students to provide a notebook computer for their child. The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into learning programs has seen the education landscape change markedly at the school over the past few years. Many teachers now rely on students' access to a notebook computer as part of the learning program, and this reliance will continue to grow. Students now consider their own notebook computer to be indispensable in the classroom.

Parents of Year Sevens and new students in 2017 are requested to provide a notebook computer or tablet for their child. The device needs to have a long battery life, be light and portable (maximum 14" screen), and it needs to be practical to use in the classroom. In 2016, most students used an Apple MacBook Air 11" model. Outright purchase of the base model 11" MacBook Air from a shop is \$1399, or it can be purchased as part of a \$1503 deal available through Winthrop Australia which will also include an extended 3 year AppleCare warranty and a Targus Contego slipcase. The school will handle your warranty or insurance claims if it is purchased from Winthrop. Details of the offers available through Winthrop Australia can be viewed at <https://portal.winaust.com.au/a/rossmoyneshs>

You can order at any time, and it will be delivered to your home within 7-10 working days. Any missed deliveries will be held at Australia Post.

The price of an Apple MacBook Air has increased significantly since last year, and you may find better value with an alternative device. Students are currently using a variety of devices on the school network, and all have successfully connected to the network. These include Windows laptops, Surface tablets and Chromebooks. It is recommended you do some of your own research. We have created a web page listing various devices at different price points at <http://www.rossmoyneshs.wa.edu.au/mod/page/view.php?id=36729>. This page lists laptops and tablets which have been well reviewed and which we think would work well as a school device. We have also included on the page other information which you may find useful.

We highly recommend that you also purchase a protective case for your child's device. To provide the best protection against the pressure of heavy items in the school bag, which can crack the screen, it should be a hard case, or at least well padded. We also recommend insurance. Insurance can be quite cheap if you already have home and contents insurance. You need to phone your insurance company and have it added to your policy as an additional item. If you are buying a MacBook using Winthrop Australia, they also have optional insurance, which starts at \$335 for 3 years. You may get a much better deal than this with your home insurance.

FAQs

What model do you recommend?

This is really up to you. Although most parents in 2016 purchased the base 11" MacBook Air, prices have increased significantly since then, and experience now shows that a wide range of devices work well. If you want to buy a MacBook, you might want to consider the 13" Air for an extra \$129, which has a larger screen and longer battery life. You do not need to spend a great deal of money. Do your own research, and have a look at our page at <http://www.rossmoyneshs.wa.edu.au/mod/page/view.php?id=36729>

If we already have a notebook computer at home, can my child use this?

Your device will need to have a good battery life and not be too large or heavy. Your child is welcome to bring it to school and try it out. Some students are using Windows computers, tablets (e.g. iPad, Surface) and Chromebooks.

What happens if there is a warranty issue or a repair is needed on the MacBook we purchased from Winthrop Computers?

You can leave it at the school where it will be picked up and handled by Winthrop. If there is a charge for repairs not covered under warranty, you will need to arrange this with Winthrop Computers. If you did not buy your computer from Winthrop, you will need to make your own arrangements.

Can my child use an iPad or tablet?

Students will need to be able to use a keyboard, and they will probably find a screen keyboard too slow. If you want to use a tablet, consider a case with an integrated keyboard. Your child may find the screen too small, but this is up to you. Apple, Android and Windows tablets should all connect to our network.

Will I need to pay for extra software?

Most work in the classroom is web based, and there are usually no requirements to install extra software. You will need an office suite (word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, etc.). Apple iWork is included for free with the MacBooks and there are a lot of free suites, including LibreOffice and Google Docs. Google Docs has the advantage of storing files in the cloud. Microsoft Office is not necessary, but some students are familiar with this and prefer to pay extra for it. When submitting work to their teachers online, students need to export their documents as a PDF, which can be done by any of these suites.

How much support can the school provide for my child's device?

We will help getting it connected to the school network. The IT office at the school is available for students to visit with any problems, but we can't help with hardware issues.

What if I cannot afford to purchase a notebook computer for my child?

For those who cannot at present afford to purchase their child a computer, we may have older MacBooks available for loan from the school, so that your child will not be disadvantaged in the classroom. A school loan depends on your circumstances. Contact the school for more information. There are low cost alternatives (under \$400) listed at <http://www.rossmoyneshs.wa.edu.au/mod/page/view.php?id=36729>

How often are student computers used in school?

Experience since the program began shows that students are quick to adopt new technology, and most are competent users of their computers and eager to use them for learning. It is difficult to answer just how much your child will use their notebook in the classroom, as it will vary. School staff need training and support in developing ways to integrate the notebooks effectively into their learning programs. This change has taken place at a steady pace over the last few years, and many teachers love the opportunities the student notebooks have opened up in the classroom, but it is occurring at an uneven pace within a large staff. We are committed to making this a positive experience, and getting the best possible benefit from the 1:1 program.

More specifically, some of the ways the student computers are used include:

- Many staff now place learning materials on Moodle, our online learning platform. Plagiarism checking is also performed when students upload their work using Turnitin via their Moodle class.
- Government run assessments, such as NAPLAN and OLNA, are increasingly being conducted online, and require student computers for completion. It is possible that by the time your child completes his or her ATAR exams in Year 12, they will be completed using a computer.
- In Mathematics, printed texts have been replaced by Pearson interactive eBooks and MathSpace.
- In the Social Sciences, the students' computers are used for research, interactive online activities (such as Kahoot) and for completion of assignments.
- Many science teachers now have their resources on Moodle, and also regularly engage in online simulations and research.
- English teachers are increasingly using Moodle, and students rely on their computers for much of their research. English also use English Perfect online as a valuable learning resource.

Any further questions should be directed to the school ICT Manager or the Administrative Manager.

Sujit Pottayil Kuttappan (ICT Manager)

Mark Southon (Administrative Manager)

ph 92592121

ph 92592271

Sujit.PottayilKuttappan@education.wa.edu.au

Mark.Southon@education.wa.edu.au