FAQ’s for Denison College - Bathurst Campus 2015

Do students have to bring their devices every day to school?

Yes. The device is part of a student’s equipment set for learning. Students will be expected to bring their device fully charged to school every day. The device contains their homework diary, their access to our library, world book online and video material used in class. Textbooks are more and more being delivered online. Their device will not be used in all classes all the time as books are also a device.

How will students store and share their digital work?

Denison’s preferred online learning platform is Google’s Apps for Education. Students will have access to cloud-based storage services such as Google Drive and Google Classroom for saving and sharing documents. These services are available from devices with an Internet connection but will work offline. Students also have access to the full Microsoft Office sweet for free. This will work on any type of device. They reach it through their portal login.

Do students still have to bring exercise books to school?

Yes. A device is another tool for learning just like all other equipment. Students will still be required to bring exercise books and writing materials in addition to their device. The devices are not used in every period but are integrated into normal learning.

Will there be an internet filter applied when the device is used at school?

While at school, students will be restricted by the NSW Department of Education and Communities filtered internet service. All social media sites and inappropriate sites are blocked while students are at school.

Will I be able to put on my own apps or programs onto my device, other than the ones the school has asked for?

Yes. Parents and students are allowed to install their own apps and programs on their devices. These are at the discretion of parents and students.

What are the guidelines for responsible use of these devices?

Denison College has a Responsible Use Policy (RUP) for use of computers and other networked devices both internally and externally. The guidelines, rules, and recommendations shared in this document will be adhered to in the classroom and should also be reinforced at home.

What happens if my child’s device is lost or stolen?

Any damage or loss to a device that a student brings to school will be the student’s responsibility. The school will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage. Families may choose to consider purchasing insurance and/or extended warranty for the device. This can be done through a retailer or the school’s purchasing portal.

Do I need to purchase Insurance for my BYOD device?

Purchasing insurance is a personal choice and recommended. When purchasing your laptop please learn about your options to purchase Damage Protection for your PC laptops. This ensures that your laptop is protected against accidental damage to your child’s device on and off the school campus.

Will there be a place at school for devices to be stored when they are not being used?

When students are not in class their devices should be stored in their bags in a safe place. They should not leave their bags unattended unless instructed to do so by a teacher. They should also not leave their bags in places where the device can be easily damaged. In 2015 we had no reports of a device being stolen and only one report of a device being
damaged. Damage or theft have been shown to be uncommon but parents must make their own decisions and students must take responsibility for their equipment.

Who is responsible for the maintenance and updates?
All maintenance for the hardware device, operating system, software and/or apps purchased by the family are the responsibility of the family. Families should ensure quick maintenance turnaround for student devices. However loaner laptops are available. The school employs a Technical Support Officer four days per week and he is available for all students with technical problems.

What if I forget my laptop and leave it at home?
You may be working from a book or if you need to use a laptop in class then we have pods of common laptops you can use. Report your problem to your teacher. Your work will be available on Google when you get home.

Which computers are acceptable/approved?
The computers that fit the minimum specification list mentioned under Minimum Specification are acceptable for use in the classroom. If you have questions about whether a specific model computer will meet the requirements please feel free to contact the Denison College Bathurst High Campus tech office. All devices on the purchase portal of the Bathurst High website meet minimum specifications. In addition, devices at local retailers will meet specifications.

What are the rules about surveillance (monitoring student laptops)?
We do not monitor student laptops directly unless. We do however keep a log of Internet traffic of the Denison College Network. All Denison College Responsible Use Policy guidelines will apply to misuse of the Internet or the Denison College network. Students must hand over any device if a teacher thinks that it may contain material that is not appropriate. All students sign a digital usage agreement with the school.

As a parent, how can I best support my child at home with the laptops?
We strongly encourage you to work as a family to set ground rules for the care, maintenance, and usage of the laptops. Families should set work routines that allow for completion of homework and other school tasks separately from play or socializing on the computer. Given the safety and family concerns of some internet content, we strongly suggest students use laptops in such a way to provide family members access to laptop screens and have on-going family discussions about appropriate Internet use. Also, parents should have access to passwords for their children’s accounts online. Families should encourage students to have only one program open at a time in order to engage fully with one task. We also strongly encourage families to set ground rules about the use of chat programs or other social networking programs while students are working on their laptops at home.

As a Parent, How Can I Use Technology with my Child?
If you have a Google account (which is free), your child can share their homework calendar with you. You will be able to see what is due and when. Parents can also use the parent portal in our Learning Management Software (Millennium) to track most aspects of their child’s schooling.