



Bring Your Own Device - 2021



NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

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What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device, or BYOD is a technological trend in education and in the corporate world. BYOD recognises that technology and choices about technology are very much personal. BYOD acknowledges technology in education means more than meeting specific curriculum requirements.

BYOD is designed to give you, as students and families, freedom to make technology choices that suit you and all your circumstances.

Newcastle High School Vision

Newcastle High School values preparing our students for a rapidly changing world, where technology plays a critical role in personal, social, and professional lives. Staff at Newcastle High School have taken great strides to integrate the use of devices into all aspects of teaching, including the implementation of a state of the art learning management platform, Canvas. BYOD is an important step in ensuring all NHS students are working with 21st century learning capabilities. Our teaching staff wish to expand the program across the school. This allows each subject to move from physical to electronic texts over time, to deliver some lessons with a unified teaching methodology across all year groups, and to bring rich learning experiences to all schools. All faculties are committed to developing increased integration with the BYOD program over the coming years. Research indicates that schools who require students to bring their own device leads to an increase in student participation and collaboration, with learning becoming significantly more student driven.



Students in Year 7 are required to bring their own device for learning in 2021. Purchasing can be made from any retailer or via the portal described at the end of this document.



How does BYOD work?

In 2021, students in Year 7 are required to bring their own computing device to school every day. We make recommendations about the model of device you may choose to bring. Or, if you have a strong technical background, there may be something of your own choosing that meets our minimum Device Specifications. The school's Technology Support Officer is available to answer questions and to give assistance. However, the school does not manage, support, own or warranty the device – it is your device.





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Is BYOD designed for all students?

All students at Newcastle High School are welcome to bring their own device and use it as part of the learning in the classroom. As we push towards a more technology supported curriculum, we require all students in Years 7, 11, and 12 to bring a laptop to class to support their learning in the new classroom initiatives.

What type of device can we bring?

A range of devices meet the **Device Specification**. You should carefully consider all your options for purchase and lease/rent-to-buy. Consider also that a good quality device could comfortably last four years.

Additionally, it's possible you already own or use a device that meets the Device Specification, in which case just bring that.



Why do you operate a portal with JB Hi-Fi?

Some of the Device Specification requirements are quite particular. By choosing a device from our parent portal at JB Hi-Fi, you are ensured the right type of device has been chosen. Just visit [JB BYOD](#) and enter the school code **NewcastleHSBYOD**, and you won't have to worry about whether the laptop ticks all the requirements.



There are only a handful of devices available through the portal by design. Allowing a smaller selection of choices between the low, medium, and high price points making it easier for parents, students, and teachers who will all be using the same group of devices. This enables staff to assist students more effectively in the classroom.

Can I borrow a laptop from the school?

The school operates a loan program for students unable to purchase a device. It is the requirement of the student to borrow a laptop for the day from the Library and return it at the end of each day. Approval must be granted through the Head Teacher Wellbeing for any student who wishes to borrow a laptop for long term use at home. A nominal fee is required for this service, and applications can be made via the front office.



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I'm concerned about the costs

The purchase of a device is a major decision and a significant expense. A good quality device should last for at least four years if it cared for appropriately and stored securely. Newcastle High School has taken strides to integrate device use into many aspects of teaching and learning. Your investment allows the school to maximise learning outcomes for all students. We are committed to our obligations as a public education institution to deliver the same learning outcomes to all our students no matter their families' financial means.

I'm concerned about device security

The school does not own the device, support the device, or warranty the device. Experience from the previous Commonwealth-funded Digital Education Revolution scheme indicates that students who took good care of their device and considered themselves the device's owner rarely had device security issues. If you are concerned the device is going to be broken, lost, or stolen, you may wish to consider specific accidental damage insurance for the device. You can specifically list the item on your home contents insurance, or you can purchase an Accidental Damage Protection Plan for your device. Accidental Damage Protection is available as an option for all our recommended devices. You may also consider using a device locator service such as "Find My" to track the GPS coordinates of the device.

What software is needed?

Most Windows and Apple software comes preinstalled. Students enrolled at Newcastle High School also gain free access to all Adobe Suite, Microsoft Office 365, and Google Workspace applications. Instructions are available on the school website demonstrating how to install the software using the Students' Department of Education account.

The screenshot shows the Newcastle High School website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: MAKE A PAYMENT, ENROLMENT, NEWS, NEWSLETTER, EVENTS, GALLERY. The school logo and name are on the left, with the tagline 'Quality education in a caring environment' and contact information (T: 02 4969 3177, E: newcastle-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au). Below this is a main navigation bar with links: Our School, Our Students, Our Learning, Our Facilities, Contact Us. The page title is 'Google Workspace and Microsoft Office'. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home / Our School / Technology Access / Google Workspace and Microsoft Office. On the left, there is a sidebar menu with 'Technology Access' selected, listing: Canvas Access, Canvas Support, Sentral Access, Adobe Creative Cloud, BYOD Assistance, and 'Google Workspace and Microsoft Office' (highlighted). The main content area features a colorful graphic of overlapping circles and text stating: 'Newcastle High School promotes the use of cloud based technology through Google Suite or Microsoft Office. Students are encouraged from year seven to use the Google Suite of applications - particularly Google Docs, Google Slides and Google Drive.' Below this is a section titled 'Google Workspace' with a brief description: 'Google Workspace is a suite of online productivity tools that work on any device. Google Workspace lets teachers and students create, communicate and collaborate in real time.'



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Newcastle High School BYOD Parent Portal

Parents can access the Newcastle High School JB Hi-Fi Education parent portal where a selection of *Apple*, *HP* and *Lenovo* devices may be purchased. These laptops are specifically chosen for the classroom and have a variety of pricing options available.

Visit <https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod/> with our school code **NewcastleHSBYOD** and make your choice.



Do I have to purchase through the JB Hi-Fi portal?

No. Parents and students are free to purchase devices from any retailer but must ensure the specifications of the device meet the school's requirements.

Program Device Specification

Form Factor	Windows Laptop or Apple MacBook. <i>Mobile phones/smartphones are not considered part of the BYOD program.</i>
Physical Dimensions	Minimum Screen Size: 9.7"
Operating System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microsoft Windows• Apple MacOS <p>Note: Windows 10 and Office 365 are available as a free download to students through the DET portal. MacOS comes with built in software. You must be able to install your own software from third parties (such as installing Google Chrome onto Microsoft Windows 10)</p>
Processor	Dual core processor or better.
Memory	Minimum RAM: Laptops 4GB
Wireless Compatibility	Wireless connectivity required. Devices that connect via the 802.11n WiFi standard, on the dual band both 5 Ghz and 2.4 Gh frequency devices will connect.
Battery Life	Advertised battery life of 5 hours or more.
Storage	Minimum 64GB storage on device. <p>Note: Students are recommended to make use of a storage device such as the Office 365 OneDrive or Google Drive to save work. These accounts are done through the student's DET login and allow unlimited storage.</p>
Protective casing	Students are required to store their device in a suitable protective case when not in use.
Additional Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USB 2.0 or USB 3.0 port (Highly desirable)• Accidental loss and breakage insurance