Q&A Rostrata B.Y.O.D Program

How does the school’s systems prevent the transfer of viruses between personal devices and school system and vice versa?

The BYOD devices don’t actually join the school domain. They simply connect to the internet via the wireless network. The school network is protected by the latest McAfee virus detection software. Students are free to use USB memory devices as they have been for many years. These are scanned when they are inserted into a computer.

How are the devices stored in the classroom to prevent theft?

Classes have lockable cupboards. If a classroom hasn’t a lock fitted to a cupboard then this can be arranged. Children are not permitted to enter classrooms during breaks unsupervised. This is enforced by duty teachers.

How does the school’s system prevent student accessing sites / info that would not be appropriate for school context?

The school has three layers of protection. The internet comes via the education department servers. Inappropriate sites are blocked. The school has a proxy server that can monitor and track student use. Students cannot use devices unless supervised by classroom teachers.

How will the school ensure that 3g or 4g connections do not make their way into the school on private devices?

The school will have a contract with families that states that the use of 3g and 4g devices are prohibited. If students are found to have a device fitted with 3g or 4g connectivity then families will be contacted and reminded about their obligations.

How will the school manage students who breach the policy and therefore the parent/student/school contract?

Families who breach the conditions of the contract will be asked to comply or have the contract terminated.

Clarification of how devices are going to be used in classes to ensure they are used as a learning tool rather than as a time filler or as a reward. What Information is there on what devices could / would be used in class?

The devices are the ‘Swiss Army Knife’ of technology. There are many uses and depending on the capability of the device new uses will be found every day. Technology is evolving at a rapid rate. It is amazing what is happening at the moment and is very exciting for students. It is important that Rostrata’s students become part of this revolution in technology. Staff who have made excellent use of computers for many years at Rostrata are very aware of how to integrate IT into their learning programs.
Will there be support for students who have problems with devices during the day?

Support will always be available at many levels. Within every class there will be experts (other students) who are very knowledgeable and capable. Children are often far more capable and comfortable than adults using technology. Junior classes have buddy classes that could be of assistance. We have been using these devices for two years and have found solutions to the problems we have encountered so far. Students very quickly learn new technology. We also have an IT coordinator on site three days a week.

Will the school monitor and gather data to determine if the BYOD program is achieving the goals desired in terms of student learning? How will it do this?

All programs used by the school are constantly monitored for their effectiveness. That is the nature of education and learning. We are undertaking this program because of the success and enthusiasm in using portable technology over the past two years. This is not a new program. It is being used worldwide and is identified as the most effective way of giving students the power of accessing the wealth of information available on the WWW.

Will students be disadvantaged if they don’t have a device?

The BYOD program will actually free up school owned devices. Students without a device will have access to the 100 Samsung tablets and 200 computers owned by the school.

What are the minimum requirements on devices?

The minimum requirement is that it is a tablet device that can connect to the school proxy server. The school has suggested devices that can be purchased at a very good price with onsite pickup for warranty.

How skilled are staff in working with devices as a learning tool? What professional learning will they engage in to ensure the effective use of the devices in classrooms?

Staff are constantly undergoing Professional Development for a multitude of new programs and learning how to use new technology in the classroom is one of those. Technology is changing at such a rapid rate that staff and students will learn on the job every day.

Will there be any requirement for specific Apps to be purchased? If yes, will staff have to get school approval before asking parents to purchase any specific apps?

There will be basic apps that will be required. Presently all the apps we use are freely available for no charge on Google Play or iTunes. If apps need to be purchased in the future they will be by agreement with the school.