



19th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Enabling Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

As part of the national strategy to ensure all learners and educators can benefit from digital technology, the Scottish Government and Education Scotland identified four key objectives that need to be achieved to embed the use of digital technology in education. One of these objectives is to improve access to digital technology for all learners.

Recently at Ellon Academy we have significantly increased the number of devices we have available for pupils to use in school. Connecting Scotland (the Scottish Government programme set up in response to coronavirus) has also helped to provide devices to pupils at risk of digital exclusion.

Our next step is to enable BYOD, which would provide wireless internet access across the school. This means that all learners and educators could connect their own personal digital devices to the Wi-Fi for use during learning and teaching, in addition to school provided devices.

What does this mean?

Pupils will not be required to bring their own device to school. However, enabling BYOD will mean pupils may use personally owned devices (including laptops, tablets, smartphones, media devices, and mobile phones) to support their learning as directed by a member of staff.

A few examples of what this could look like are listed at the end of this letter.

What happens next?

For us to enable wireless internet across the school, all pupils and parents/carers need to review and sign our updated acceptable use policy (AUP).

[Please click on this link which takes you to an online form for you to review and sign.](#)

Sections 1 - 3 of the form are for pupils to complete and sections 4 and 5 are for parents/carers. We ask that you go through the form together as a family and submit by **Thursday 1st April.**

If you have more than one child at Ellon Academy, please submit a separate response for each pupil.

Some examples of how BYOD could support learning at Ellon Academy

- Pupils could use the same device in school and at home, saving time and ensuring that work isn't lost during this transition.
- Pupils could benefit from more teaching time that could have been lost when collecting IT.
- Pupils with specific needs could access on-line supportive technology on the same machine at home and at school.
- Pupils may feel more comfortable using their own device and post COVID-19, this would reduce the sharing of devices or paper handouts.
- Pupils could use their own devices in lessons for quizzes, interactive whiteboards and for research tasks as well as accessing their Google Classrooms.
- Pupils could use their device in study periods and in other parts of the school such as different areas of the library.
- Pupils would be able to carry out theory work for practical subjects in other areas of the school such as the games hall and drama studio.
- There are not always enough devices to meet demand in some areas of the school so BYOD would allow more pupils to complete online work during lessons.
- In the library pupils could use their own device to access the digital resources such as e-books and e-audio books alongside access to the online library catalogue.

Additional information

- We have updated our online safety policy and mobile technologies policy. You can find them on the school website.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the updated Acceptable Use Policy (link above). This will take us a step closer to Ellon Academy enabling BYOD and I hope this letter has highlighted the benefits it will bring to all pupils.

Yours sincerely

L Moir

Mrs Moir
Principal Teacher Digital Learning