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Dear Parent/Carer,

Student Laptop/Parent Contribution Scheme

We are pleased to launch the Student Laptop and Parental Contribution Scheme for the 2025/26 academic year. This initiative aims to ensure that every student has personal access to a laptop – an essential tool for modern learning. Use of a laptop for learning will help students organise, communicate and study both in school and at home; enhancing their learning experience, whilst reducing reliance on paper-based materials.

We are looking to utilise commercial-grade, specially designed Windows laptops which will help students organise, communicate, learn and study both at school and when at home. Individual access to technology is not something that should happen in a few rooms in the school, it should be for everyone, everywhere and at any time. Young people are used to always having access to the Internet, in all places – school should not be the exception. We want our pupils to have access to the greatest source of information ever assembled and to study and research in their own innovative and personalised ways.

We need to make full and effective use of technology for learning. Students need to learn about safe, effective, and productive use of technology learning tools. We want to make the educational experience for students at Mary Webb School & Science College as varied, dynamic and stimulating as possible and potentially improve outcomes whilst reducing reliance on paper-based materials.

What are we looking for from you?

To enable this project to be a success we will continue to invest heavily into the infrastructure at the school to ensure that every student can reliably access the network and all the digital content required for us to deliver educational excellence. We have already upgraded our broadband to a super-fast line, our wireless infrastructure, and our networking points. We will also be investing in software and associated services to enhance the way that we deliver the curriculum throughout all subject areas.

With this large investment required from us for the infrastructure to support 1:1 technology learning we require the support of the parents/carers and families of students at Mary Webb School & Science College to help fund the laptops for students.

Working with some of the largest and most experienced suppliers within the IT industry Mary Webb School & Science College will offer families the ability to procure a device for an affordable monthly direct debit payment. Using our buying power and working with these strategic partners the package will likely be cheaper than the equivalent package available on the high street. Without your support we will be unable to deliver our vision for 1:1 technology learning.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

In return for an affordable monthly payment:

- A fully managed Windows laptop, that can be used at school and at home, the laptop will be a touch screen device supplied with a stylus to allow the ability to write on the screen. On digital worksheets for example
- A protective carry case

- Education specific repair service (with zero excess)
- Software and full on-site support for the duration of the scheme whilst your child remains a student at Mary Webb School & Science College.
- Full Office 365 licence
- Enterprise grade Anti-virus software
- Web filtering (Our in-school filtering will apply to the laptop on your home network to ensure safe internet browsing)
- A commitment to using cloud technology such as Microsoft Teams to allow students to access work anywhere and new digital ways to submit online assessments for marking
- Virtual print queues on laptops, students can send documents to a cloud print queue and then collect their printed work the next morning before lessons, if needed.
- At the end of the term (either 30 or 36 months) you will own the laptop outright. The laptop will then be factory reset, and you are free to either keep the laptop for personal use or sell it on second hand markets.

Other Benefits

- Students will have the ability to have a “chat” function in Microsoft Teams to talk directly and privately to teachers, about schoolwork/school issues.
- Using OneNote and their supplied stylus, students can embrace independent learning strategies to make a virtual notebook for their lessons and subjects, taking written notes, pictures and making engaging diagrams all on their device.
- Ability to attend Parents Evenings’ virtually, in the event of bad weather/unable to find transport etc. every student will have a camera and microphone to have a Teams call with their teachers.
- Multimedia, such as videos created by teachers to help with independent learning, teachers can, for example, record themselves going through exam questions that students can follow along with in their own homes at their own pace. And many more possibilities.
- New ways to enhance group work, shared documents for students to collaborate on projects stored in the cloud, allowing greatly flexibility to submit work.
- Going green. Worksheets can be made available in the cloud and can be completed digitally, either typed up or handwritten with the stylus

Next steps:

Firstly, this scheme **will not be a mandatory** requirement for parents/carers to participate in. However, as a school we strongly encourage you to buy into the scheme now as the portal to purchase a laptop will only be open for this year until **10th July 2025**. We will be striving for a future goal where all students are buying into this scheme. We had very positive feedback from parents/carers at our Open Evening and we want to bring this option to all our students to drastically enhance their own learning whilst at Mary Webb School.

If you are interested, please refer to the attached flyer and follow the QR code below to the “Year 7 Portal” to place your order. Or use the link:

<https://portal.devicesondemand.co.uk/invite/mary-webb-school-and-science-college-year-7>

If you are interested in the scheme but have concerns about the monthly cost and repayments, please contact the school directly.

Kind regards,

Mary Webb School and Science College

