

Teaching and Learning with BYOD



At Marsden we recognise that technology and learning are deeply connected in today's world. Students instinctively use digital devices for a broad range of functions outside of school and those same devices are also integral to their learning at school.

By asking students to 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD), we are connecting the different aspects of their lives and helping them to see learning as continuous and life-long. The way devices are used at school may differ from home, but our students quickly adapt their digital skills to make the most of their educational potential.

Having access to a personal device is an essential part of modern learning at Marsden. A laptop device is compulsory for all students in Years 7–13, and optional for those in Years 3–6.

Learning in a digital world

As outlined by the Ministry of Education, e-Learning enables accessible, relevant, and high-quality learning opportunities that enhance engagement and achievement. At Marsden, we use digital tools to support collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, ensuring every student can connect, contribute, and thrive.

While technology supports learning, it does not replace the human connection that sits at the heart of teaching. Our teachers use digital platforms to personalise feedback, broaden access to resources, and foster collaboration while maintaining strong relationships and individual support.

Best of both worlds

Technology is one tool among many. Students still discuss, write, draw diagrams and illustrations, present, perform, and collaborate in person.

As NZQA moves to digital examinations, we ensure our students are confident and capable across both traditional and digital platforms.

Using devices for learning

At school and at home, students use their devices to:

- work on assessment and project tasks

- access the iCentre catalogue, databases, and trusted online sources
- read digital text books and e-books
- conduct research
- take virtual trips
- review and extend learning through flipped and blended learning models
- access class resources, support or extension material
- share and collaborate with teachers, other students, their parents/caregivers or outside experts
- draft, edit and publish their work
- develop AI academic literacy and digital citizenship skills.

Device recommendations

Students from Year 7 upwards are required to bring a laptop or MacBook.

If you are buying a new device, the following points are useful to consider:

- Wireless capability to connect to the school network
- Microsoft Windows or Mac OS operating system
- At least Intel i5/Apple M3 processor or better, 16GB RAM, and 512GB storage (for reliability and lifespan of 3–5 years)
- A battery that can last a full school day without needing a charge
- USB ports to connect external devices such as a digital camera or flash drive (or a USB-C to USB-A adaptor if it doesn't have one)
- Built-in webcam and microphone
- Reliable antivirus and security software, kept up to date, to help protect files, maintain performance, and ensure safe online activity
- Full keyboard (not a detachable tablet keyboard)
- Screen size – consider that students may be using this for many hours in the day. 13 inch+ is recommended
- Lightweight and durable design for easy transport between home and school
- A protective case or bag

Primary students in Years 3–6 are welcome to bring their own laptop or MacBook for classroom use. Ideally, these would meet the same specifications as devices used in Years 7–13. The school also provides access to Chromebooks for shared learning.

Students taking design and technology subjects at senior year levels often prefer Mac devices for compatibility with creative software, though Marsden can provide access to Mac computers when required.

BYOD Scheme

We have suggested some devices for you to consider when purchasing a device. You can order these online at [PB Tech](#), using the code SMCS20 for special Marsden deals.

Care and personal responsibility

Students are responsible for the care and security of their devices. Each device should be clearly named. Marsden takes reasonable steps to protect personal property but cannot accept responsibility if a device is lost, stolen or damaged. Please make sure you have considered this in your own insurance policy.

Students in Years 7–13 are allocated lockers with a combination lock or key.

Our IT team provides network and software support, but cannot repair or service personal devices. These will need to be taken to an external company for repairs etc.

Digital citizenship

At Marsden, we teach students to be responsible, respectful and safe digital citizens. All students sign an Acceptable Use Policy each year and are guided to understand the significance of their digital footprint, privacy, and the impact of their online choices.

We encourage families to explore Netsafe <https://www.netsafe.org.nz> for advice on online safety and parental settings.

While devices are powerful tools for learning, we remind students to balance screen time with physical activity, conversation, and creativity, knowing when to connect and when to unplug.