



St Benedict's Catholic College

JCA/TCR

7th September 2023

Dear parent/carer

Our recovery programme aims to ensure all our current year 10 students thrive in their last academic year at St Benedict's. We are also very keen to ensure we are ready to meet any more unexpected barriers and are determined that all of our GCSE students are equipped for Further Education. As part of this programme we are delighted to launch our heavily-subsidised digital device scheme which we hope will provide an equity of access that supports all our GCSE students in the event of another lockdown or extended period of isolation.

Students will be trusted to bring their device to and from college and are expected to use it during the lessons as a means of enhancing learning and centralising notes and draft assignments and must take special care of the device especially when it's in their bag. We will not be able to replace damaged devices. The college will provide access to filtered Wi-Fi, which will be monitored by our IT staff. During lessons, student laptops will be monitored via the classroom cloud application, which enables staff to view what is being completed on the laptop at any given time. Out of lesson time, college staff will not be able to connect to the laptop.

We request that students take responsibility for charging their laptop each night at home, bringing it with them ready to use during the college day. All documents should be stored on OneDrive, which is automatically backed up by our IT systems. Teachers will use office 365 to collect work, assess work, and return it to students electronically.

Payment

We are heavily subsidising a *Lenovo 300e* (2nd Gen) Laptop as part of our recovery programme. We are asking all parents/carers to make a £55 contribution towards the costs of the device and case, via ParentPay. As this item is available now, it would really help the college if you would make the contribution as soon as possible. The device is yours to keep, and will support your son/daughter through their post 16 study. If you are able, you may make an additional contribution to support other students, and to reduce the cost of the subsidy to the college. These items will be available on ParentPay on 8th September 2023.

Remember, students may only bring the laptop to college, no other device will be permitted on the College WiFi.

We have created a user guide document that offers a range of advice on how to effectively use and take care of the laptop that we would encourage both you and your son/daughter to read.

This is an exciting opportunity that we really hope our students will take full advantage of.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Callaghan
Vice Principal