Dear parents/guardians,

For more than a decade it has not been unusual for students to bring their own computing devices to school for use in their classes. Most often this has been a laptop computer.

In 2008 the Department of Education implemented the DER program under which students in Year 9 and up were issued a laptop computer. This program has now come to an end and no new laptops will be issued. Support will remain for students who have been issued DER laptops until the end of the 2016 school year.

The policy now supported by the Department of Education and Communities is known as ‘BYOD’ - Bring Your Own Device. This policy also responds to the reality that households are making decisions to purchase their own computing devices with which students are becoming very familiar. Under the BYOD policy students will be able to bring their own computing devices to school and the Department will provide the necessary infrastructure to allow access to the school's network.

Different faculties and subjects will use computing devices in a wide range of ways. Our school will still maintain three dedicated computer classrooms as well as many computer 'satellite' stations around the school. These facilities enable student learning to be supported with higher powered computers and specialist software such as the film producing software on the high powered Macintosh computers.

Bulli High School will support a suite of computing devices available to students. This suite of computers will consist of high powered desktop computers, class sets of DER laptops and students own devices.

If you would like your child to use their own computing device at school we recommend -
- a laptop computer
- an ultrabook computer, or
- a tablet such as an iPad or Samsung Galaxy

Devices with a 9" or larger screen are preferred.

Whichever device you choose to purchase will need to meet the specifications as explained on the sheet attached in order be compatible with our school network. For further information refer to BYOD@BulliHigh which is found on the school’s website. Under the heading of specifications provided (incorporating device examples) are also examples of computing devices that meet the specifications and explanations of their capabilities. This information will assist parents to make decisions when purchasing computing devices.

Meanwhile, Bulli High School has negotiated with two local businesses, Rosman Computers of Thirroul Plaza and The Computer Guy of Woonona who are offering to assist parents of Bulli High School with the purchase of devices outlined within the BYOD@BulliHigh document on the school’s website.

If considering purchasing a tablet device please be aware that these may not be suitable for the production and completion of many homework and assignment tasks as tablets don't run programs such as Word and Excel or don't have keyboards that facilitate the creation of lengthy pieces of text.
Parents are advised that programs such as the Adobe suite and composition programs for specialist subjects such as Creative and Performing Arts are accessed on desktop computers in specialist areas at the school. If parents are keen for their children to have access to such programs on their children’s personal device, they will need to purchase the appropriate device and incur costs such as $3000 for personal copies of the Adobe suite.

Students who do not bring their own device to school will not be disadvantaged because the school will retain a bank of DER laptops that will be lent to students for use at school until they are able to purchase their own device.

All Bulli High School students are entitled to one (1) free copy of Adobe Captivate, CS6 Design, Photoshop Elements, Premiere Elements, Presenter, Microsoft Office & Windows. If students are using a BYOD device at school, they should install Microsoft Office on that device. Directions to assist with this installation process are outlined on the school’s website under BYOD@Bulli High.

**Please note that families do not need to purchase the Adobe and Microsoft products mentioned above because students may acquire them free.**

Computing devices and their use in class are supplements to regular classroom activities and will not replace traditional teaching methods and strategies, including resources such as exercise books and text books.

Please carefully consider the information provided and contact the school if you required further clarification.

Your sincerely,

Lou Tome
Relieving Principal
Bulli High School
42848266
Parents Checklist

Windows Notebook
☐ Minimum 10 inch screen
☐ Minimum 6 hours battery
☐ 802.11n 5ghz/Dualband Wi-Fi
☐ i3 or greater processor
☐ At least 4 gigabytes of memory

Apple Notebook
☐ Made after 2009
☐ Minimum OSX 10.7
☐ At least 4 Gigabytes of memory

Windows Tablet
☐ Minimum 7 inch screen
☐ Minimum 6 hours battery
☐ 802.11n 5ghz/Dualband Wi-Fi
☐ Dual Core or greater processor
☐ At least 16 gigabytes of storage.

Apple iPad
☐ Made after 2009
☐ Minimum OSX 10.7
☐ At least 16 Gigabytes of storage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Apple MacBook**       |                      | **Air** from $1049  
**Pro** from $1229  
**Pro 13** from $1499 | Suitable for all year groups especially years 10+. Used for music, photography and video editing. |
| **Sony Vaio Pro 13**   |                      | From $850                                                                  | High end small laptop with Windows 8.1. Suitable for all years, especially years 10+. |
| **Lenovo T440**        |                      | From $850                                                                  | Mid range laptop with Windows 8.1. Suitable for all years 7+. |
| **Apple iPad**         |                      | **Wifi models only**  
**Mini** from $349  
**Air** from $548 | High end Tablet, with **ios7**. Used for research, basic word processing and limited photo editing. Suitable for years 7 - 9. |
| **Microsoft Surface**  |                      | **Wifi models only**  
**Surface** $450 - $2000 | High end Tablet, with Windows 8.1. Used for research, basic word processing and limited photo editing. Suitable for years 7 - 9. |
| **Lenovo Thinkpad 8 Business** |                      | **Wifi models only**  
**From** $549 - $649 | Mid Range tablet, with Windows 8.1. Used research and basic word processing. Suitable for years 7 - 8. |