Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Information for students commencing in 2021

Brisbane Girls Grammar School's BYOD policy allows students to bring a device of their choice to the School, provided the device meets the School's minimum specification requirements. By bringing a device of choice, students can personalise their learning and adapt technology to suit their individual learning styles, rather than working with a device that has been prescribed for them.

For the 2021 academic year, the School will require all Year 7 students to own a device that supports a stylus, or has the facility to use a stylus/touch screen input. A stylus looks and acts like a real pen and is used by students in the classroom to take notes (which can be converted to type), to highlight or emphasise parts of text, to draw and sketch, to solve in-class assessment activities directly onto device screens and to even send written examples of questions or formulas to their teachers. 'Digital inking', the use of a stylus or pen, allows numbers, symbols, diagrams, drawings and other markings to be captured digitally.

Recent studies support using a stylus device in the educational context. Dean (2014) explains the ability to mix digital ink, images and text means that products such as formulas in Mathematics or the drawing of diagrams or annotation of images imported into text in Biology, can be quickly undertaken. Mantgem (2008) notes students and teachers alike can write, draw and sketch with freedom, enabling students to 'tap directly into their creative brainstorming thought processes'.

Please note, Apple Mac computers do not directly support a stylus device. A companion accessory, such as an active tablet to enable pen input, would also be required (refer to page 4).

BYOD specifications

These specifications have been developed as a guide for parents when determining the most appropriate device to purchase for their daughter.

1.0 Operating system

- The School's recommended operating system is Windows 10.
- The School will also support MAC OS X 10.14 (Mojave).
- To allow for important educational software, such as Adobe Creative Cloud, to be installed, some systems are **ineligible** for BYOD at Girls Grammar. Ineligible systems include Windows RT, Windows Pro X, Windows S and iPad Pro and iOS.

2.0 Hardware specifications

Component	Specification
Processor	*Minimum:* i5 or i7 (or equivalent)
Wi-Fi	Compatibility with 802.11 ac Compatibility with enterprise authentication
Battery life	*Recommended:* 8+ hours
Memory	*Minimum:* 8GB RAM
Storage	*Recommended:* 256GB SSD, External Hard Drive, SD Card Reader *Minimum:* 256GB Solid State Drive (SSD)
Physical characteristics	Screen size: *Recommended:* 13-14 inch *Minimum:* 12 inch Physical keyboard USB Port Macs with only one USB-C port, a USB adaptor may be useful[1]
Peripherals	*Recommended:* Cordless mouse, protective case *Recommended:* Charger (brought to School daily)
Touch input[2]	Touch screen with Stylus[3]
Software capacity	Capacity to run Microsoft Office (provided by School) and Adobe Creative Cloud software (provided by School)
Warranty	*Recommended:* Accidental Damage Protection *Minimum:* 3 years

[1] USB type C plugs are now popular on modern Macs. An adaptor to allow traditional USB devices such as USB keys and document cameras will need an adaptor, please check with retailers on Port USB 3.1 Type C Notebook Hub.

[2] A stylus is a device that looks and acts like a real pen and is commonly used on a tablet or mobile device. The kinds of activities a stylus can be used for in the classroom include taking notes, highlighting or emphasising parts of text, or even drawing and sketching. A stylus can be used with any device that has a capacitive touch screen or touch pad.

[3] Active stylus (fine tip) or equivalent such as Wacom digitiser. For more information, visit the schools BYOD FAQ section: www.bggs.qld.edu.au/byod

References

1. Dean, B.A.C. (2014). How does the use of the Tablet PC contribute to teaching and learning goals in the secondary classroom? Master of Philosophy, University of Queensland, viewed 31 May 2017, https://goo.gl/X32Jdu.
2. Mantgem, M.V. (2008). Tablet PCs in K-12 Education. Washington: International Society for Teaching Technology in Education.

Device examples

The IT Department at Girls Grammar has provided a selection of devices that support a stylus, based on product reputation and technical review. This is not an exhaustive list, but offers a sample of devices that meet the School's specifications.

Manufacturer/Model	Image	Price (RRP)	Features
Microsoft Surface Pro 7		$1889	Processor: i5 or i7 Display:12.3" Stylus: Surface Pen Enabled Storage: 128GB, 256GB, 512GB or 1TB Battery: up to 10.5 hours Mode: tablet or dock Warranty: 1 year
Microsoft Surface Book 2		$2199	Processor: i5 or i7 Display:13.5" Stylus: Surface Pen Enabled Storage: 256GB, 512GB or 1TB Battery: up to 17 hours Mode: tablet or dock Warranty: 1 year
HP X360 1030 Elitebook G4		$2435	Processor: i5 or i7 Display:13.3" Stylus: Active Pen Storage: 256GB Battery: up to 18 hours Mode: tablet or dock Warranty: 1 year

Dell XPS 13 2-in-1		$2499	Processor: i5 or i7 Display: 13.4" Stylus: Dell Active Pen sold separately: $161 Storage: 256GB Battery: up to 10 hours 22 minutes Mode: tablet or dock Warranty: 1 year
Lenovo Thinkpad Yoga 370		$1999	Processor: i5 or i7 Display: 13.3" Stylus: ThinkPad Pen Pro Storage: 256GB or 516GB Battery: up to 12 hours 30 minutes Mode: tablet or dock Warranty: 1 year
Toshiba Protégé X20		$2145	Processor: i5 Display: 12.5" Stylus: TruPen Stylus Storage: 256GB Battery: up to 9 hours Mode: 360 degree convertible Warranty: 3 year

Apple Mac + companion device		Varies	Visit the BES portal or an Apple store to view all the available specifications.
		$126-$247 (depending on size)	
	Apple Mac devices do not support a stylus device. A companion device, such as an active tablet to enable pen input (pictured above), would also be required.		

BES IT: technology provider for Brisbane Girls Grammar School families

Brisbane Girls Grammar School has an agreement, negotiated on behalf of our families, with BES IT, a wholesale technology provider, to support parents who wish to purchase a new computing device for their daughter. There is no commercial arrangement between BES IT and Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

BES offers parents educational pricing and three-year warranties that include onsite (at School) warranty repairs organised by the School's IT Services team. A range of computing devices, consistent with the School's suggested specifications, are available from BES and all orders are delivered to the School. Information about the BES purchasing portal can be accessed at https://www.bggs.qld.edu.au/byod/portal-facilitates-purchase-byod-suitable-devices/

Further information

For further information about the BYOD program or BYOD specifications, please contact the School's IT Services team on 61 7 3332 1478 or byod@bggs.qld.edu.au.