

Frequently Asked Questions

IT RELATED

What kinds of in-house Cyber Safety programs do you have?

Blackburn High School is very aware of the issues surrounding the use of ICT, including digital footprints, cyberbullying and electronic security. Part of our role in educating our school community is the eSmart program sponsored by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. A framework for becoming an eSmart school has been developed, which our school has implement. To support students with learning to be safe online we run Mentor Group sessions and regularly access resources and information from a number of government sponsored sites including the Cybersmart website. Cybersmart is a national cyber safety and cyber security education program managed by the Australian and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of the Australian Government's commitment to cyber safety. www.esafety.gov.au Cybersmart also provides an excellent cyber safety toolbox with information and strategies for parents. www.esmart.org.au.

What are the minimum Specifications required for BYODD devices to be used within the school?

The minimum specifications are:

- *At least a dual core processor*
- *At least 4GB of memory*
- *Internal Hard drive of at least 128GB of storage.*
- *Screen size must be above 10" and no more than 16" in size.*
- *Device must be able to hold a charge for the entire school day. The school does not offer or provide charging services.*
- *Protective cover and carry case.*
- *Run Windows 10 or Apple OSX (Not Windows 10s)*

It is recommended that any BYODD devices have a suitable warranty period to cover their expected life within the school as well as having insurance to cover accidental damage.

Does device image include anti-virus malware protection?

All Microsoft Windows devices come pre-installed with the Windows Defender Antivirus product. If you wish to also invest in alternate antivirus products, the school does not put any restrictions on this but please be aware that some products can cause difficulties access school resources such as printers and the wireless network

When will office 365 accounts be issued?

Students that have purchased BYODD devices will have accounts created for them during Term 4 2020 as part of their device's setup process. All other students will have accounts created and will be provided at the start of Term 1 2021.

Is there cloud storage available through office 365?

All students have access to 1Tb of cloud storage as part of their school provided Microsoft 365 account.

Where and how do we purchase the school's preferred device? How much does the device cost through your provider? Can we get a link to the LWT / BHS site to view all available device options?

Information is provided through the following links:

<https://www.blackburnhs.vic.edu.au/curriculum/bring-your-own-device-program/>

<https://blackburn.orderportal.com.au/Welcome?ofid=199&eid=618>

What is the access code for LWT to enter the school portal?

A code is not required.

How soon do the students have to acquire a device?

Students are expected to have a suitable device for their use as of the start of Term 1 2021. As there can be some delays in delivery of suitable devices due to shortages caused by COVID, it is recommended to purchase a device sooner rather than later

Do we have to buy a laptop or does the school provide?

It is the responsibility of families to provide a suitable device for the student's use within the school. The school can provide devices on a day to day basis for students who do not have a device in the short term i.e. being repaired etc.

Are other devices supported by Blackburn HS IT department? E.g. MS Surface Pro 7/iPad/Windows Surface?

Microsoft Surface and Acer TravelMate devices that have been purchased as part of the previous device program will continue to be supported as per normal for their expected three year lifetime by the school. Any other devices that meet the minimum specifications can be supported to gain access to the schools wireless network, access the schools printer fleet and access the Microsoft Office 365 suite.

Can we bring our own laptop and if so, will any of the existing programs/data be affected?

Students that opt to bring their own devices will be setup with access to the schools wireless, access to school printers and access to the Microsoft Office 365 suite. No other support will be provided, and there will be no other modifications to any programs, files or settings on the device. The responsibility stays with the families to ensure these devices are kept up to date and in a usable condition.

For a BYODD device (e.g., a Windows Surface), do we still bring that in to IT to get it set up (and when would that be)?

Any BYODD devices can be brought to the IT Department once Term 1 2021 commences to be setup for access to school resources.

Could you please clarify if we buy our own device (laptop) does it have to be one of the two Lenovo models presented?

It does not have to be one of the Lenovos suggested, however please note that any other device will not receive the full level of support and imaging.

May the student use an iPad instead of buying Lenovo 11e or L13?

We do not recommend the use of an iPad as they are not suitable for use in the school curriculum and lack the content creation abilities of a more traditional notebook. Students are welcome to bring Apple MacBooks as part of the BYODD program so long as they meet the minimum system requirements.

I noticed that Microsoft Surface devices were removed from the BYODD last month. What is the reason the MS Surface is no longer on the list?

The school has opted to change from the Microsoft Surface line-up to the Lenovo 11e and L13 as our primary device for a few reasons:

- *The school is better able to support the Lenovo devices as we are able to identify and arrange for warranty repair works to be carried out in the school, as opposed to having to get the respective families to log requests with Microsoft directly and have the devices shipped to Microsoft's repair centre in Sydney. This will allow for much faster turnaround times and limit the impact on student learning.*
- *The Lenovo line-up is a more budget friendly option compared to a respective Microsoft Surface device, and the school recognises that especially in Covid times, boutique devices are not as obtainable for a lot of families.*
- *As a school, we are investing in Lenovo L13 Notebooks for our staff, so having these as a recommended device for students ensures that we have a similar ecosystem and will ensure the minimum of disruptions to student learning as a result of different devices having different abilities and different usability.*

What are the differences between the 2 devices, especially for a student new to using technology? Is one easier friendly for example?

- *The 11e Yoga is an 11.6" convertible notebook that can be used as a traditional laptop or as a tablet, and comes with a built-in pen for use on the touch screen. This device is suitable for use for students in Year 7 to Year 9 and is suited for general web usage, Microsoft Teams and the Microsoft Office suite.*
- *The L13 Yoga is a 13.3" convertible notebook that can be used as a traditional laptop or as a tablet, and comes with a built-in pen for use on the touch screen. It is a more general-purpose device that is suitable for use from Year 7 through to Year 12 and is capable of all the functionality of the 11e Yoga as well as being more suited for student learning in the later years.*

Other than the technical support and warranty, are there any other key differences between the purchase yourself or purchase through the school program for devices? If purchased through the school can other apps be installed on the device?

Devices that are purchased as part of the BYODD program can be pre-prepared with all required software for the students use, whereas we are unable to provide this for BYOAD devices. BYODD devices are also able to be supported with hardware and software issues that arise and if there are software issues, can be restored to a known good working condition which we are unable to do for BYOAD devices. The students are setup as Administrators over their own devices and are able to install and remove software as required. The school does not put any restrictions in place for this.

Will the laptop that we need to purchase be used all the way through high school or will we need to purchase another laptop in later year levels? If so What will happen after the 3 year warranty is over?

The expected life of these devices is usually three years, subject to student use and care. As devices age they do tend to start to fail at a higher rate and once out of warranty, repairs and replacements can cause undue delays in the use of a device. After three years, there are generally more capable devices available that would be suited for school usage. If you choose to use a device for longer than the nominated three years, we will continue to support it as best we can but cannot guarantee it will continue to function as expected.

Which LMS do you use e.g. Compass?

In 2021 the school will be using Xuno instead of Compass.

What happens if my child's device is lost or stolen?

Like any personal item brought to school, the security of the device and its care is the responsibility of the student. The school does not have insurance to cover loss or damage to personal items belonging to students or staff. Therefore, we recommend that all students have a robust case or carry case. Computer carry cases should fit in the student's school bag. Students should also ensure that their locker is locked at all times. We strongly recommend purchasing Accidental Damage Protection which can be purchased when buying the device via the BYOD purchase portal.

Do I need to buy additional software for a BYODD device?

Student with devices not on the supported device list will be given access to the internet and printers and can be provided with licencing to relevant software where applicable. There is no current requirement for families to purchase any additional software themselves.

UNIFORM

Where do we get the uniforms from?

Please refer to Transition Tile for Dobsons' price list.

Any advice on how many of what to buy?

Dobsons staff should be able to assist you with this.

Will the early bird pricing for school uniforms be extended?

You will need to contact Dobsons.

My daughter doesn't like dresses, can she wear the shorts and shirt?

Yes, for the summer uniform girls have the choice of either a dress or shorts and a shirt.

Can students use any school backpack?

No, students are required to use a Blackburn High School backpack.

Is the cap compulsory, or can we buy the broad brim hat on Dobsons website?

The Blackburn High School cap is compulsory and must be worn with sport uniform in terms 1 and 4.

Are school blazer compulsory and are they required term 1 &4?

The school blazer is only compulsory if and when an outer garment is required. The jumper is optional for extra warmth, however, cannot be worn without the school blazer.

Is there a second-hand uniform shop, when will it be open, and can my child try things on?

There is a second-hand uniform shop on the school grounds. We are currently awaiting approval from the department for it to be reopened.

BOOKLIST/BOOKS

When do we order schoolbooks? Also available online is there an expiry date?

Please refer to Booklist information on the Transition Tile. All books are purchased through Campion.

Can you purchase books online instead of hard copies?

All required books are listed on the Campion Booklist located on the Transition Tile.

When do you receive booklist?

Please refer to the Transition Tile for more information on booklists.

Are you able to advise times for the book sale on Dec 5?

It will be from 9am to 12pm in the Resource Centre (subject to Departmental approval).

TRANSITION

**When do we find out what house our child has been allocated to and how is this determined?
E.g. Keeping primary school listed friends together?**

Class groupings are allocated to ensure there is an equitable spread of student academic ability across all classes where learning and success are prioritised. Whilst your child may be placed in a class with students not necessarily comprised from their 'wish list' of friends, the school is dedicated to assist them through a smooth successful transition. Our House system, transition activities, Mentor Program and teachers are there to support students to maintain existing friends, as well as develop new friends.

If our child has a disability/special needs who do we reach out to? (Noted it as part of the enrolment form).

If you have requested a call through the Transition forms you completed, one of our House Team representatives will be in contact shortly.

What are mentor teachers and how many students per mentor teacher?

Mentor Teachers meet with your child each day and support them in their academic, social and emotional wellbeing throughout the duration of their time at BHS. 20-25 students in a Mentor group approximately.

Do parents receive Edutest results?

No, Edutest results are for school use only.

Will we be receiving hard copies of anything over the coming weeks?

No, due to COVID only soft copies will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Is there a copy of the Transition booklet that has less colour pages as we cannot print it easily at home?

Yes we have printable copies at the office, please come and collect.

Is all of this found on the website under Year 7 transition?

Most items relevant for transition can be found on the Blackburn High School website.

The High Achiever class only had German as a language option - is there a possibility of doing French instead?

No, all HAP students partake in the same language.

When will French/German be confirmed?

The students will find out their allocated language on Orientation Day.

SCHOOL

Starting date for Students?

Year 7 and 12 student will commence school in 2021 on Friday 29th January.

Policy regarding going over to the shops during breaks?

Students are not allowed to leave school grounds during school times.

Are there bike racks at school? If so, where are they located?

There are bike racks located outside the Resource Centre.

Are lockers accessible via pin (electronically) or do we need to provide a padlock?

The combination lock is included in the school fees and your child will be provided with one.

Is there a school bus?

There is no school bus, however, there are multiple bus stops located near to the school and the train line is within a 10 minute walk from school grounds.

What are the school fees for 2021 and when are these fees due to be paid?

The school fees for year 7s 2021 are just under \$1000 plus voluntary fees. It is preferable they are paid as soon as possible or early in the new year. Payment plans are available to set up. The fees will be on the school portal (Xuno) shortly.

How will BHS handle the compromised learning experienced by grade 6s this year?

Looking at the data and getting to know them as people in classroom and Mentor program.

OTHER

Is learning a musical instrument in Year 7 elective or compulsory?

Learning an instrument is NOT compulsory, it is a parent and student choice.

Is singing/voice regarded as an instrument? Can my child do an instrument as well?

Yes singing is regarded as an instrument and the student is able to partake in an extra instrument as well.

What sports do you support?

Various different sports are supported by the school and student are able to choose their sport for the term with their sport teacher.

Are there school sports teams that compete?

Yes we have many teams compete and have been very successful in the Whitehorse area and beyond.

What are the repercussions if kids don't do their homework?

The individual teacher would discuss with your child and a detention at lunch time may be issued to complete the work if necessary.