

P U P I L D I G I T A L D E V I C E S C H E M E

T H E V I S I O N

In September 2023, we launched a 1:1 digital device scheme so that every pupil has access to a school-owned device for all their lessons. Initially the scheme launched in years 7,9,10 and 12;the subsequent cohorts of years 7 and 12 will join the scheme in 2024. The 1:1 programme is part of a wider 'Digital Vision 2025' to ensure that pupils and teachers benefit from the most effective digital support for teaching and learning.

The School is already making use of Office 365 and devices which allow users to write on the screen. These devices are provided by the School. The management, provision of software and technical support for pupils is also provided by the School, as well as the means to ensure that the device is used responsibly and safely in the interconnected world.

We undertook a comprehensive programme of classroom refurbishments and infrastructure upgrades in preparation for launching the scheme in September 2023. This created universal classroom environments that, over time, will match the quality of the Dyson building.

By all pupils having the same 1:1 device and working in the same digital environment, they are all able to access the benefits of the digital environment through their familiarity with the systems and expectations.

The strategy and investment by the School demonstrates our commitment to embrace the ways in which technology can enhance teaching and learning. However, it is important that digital learning works best when it augments traditional methods and does not undermine opportunities for creativity, collaboration and the strong interpersonal interactions that are the foundation of school life. The vision is not to become a paperless school.

Further information about the strategy is given below in the form of questions and answers.

HOW MUCH DOES THE SCHOOL CHARGE FOR THE PROVISION OF THE DIGITAL DEVICE, AND WHAT DOES THIS COVER?

The cost of the device provision is £95 per term at the Senior School and £75 per term at the Prep School, with no payments once the device is in its 3rd year (see table below). This will be an additional line in the School bill. It will cover the device itself, set-up costs, software and insurance. The School will provide a sleeve-case for each device and a screen protector. Pupils will be expected to keep the device in their school bag.

The School will offer extensive support for pupils to make sure devices can be used effectively. As all pupils' work will be stored in the Microsoft cloud, problematic devices can be "swapped" to enable pupils to continue using a device almost immediately. An excess of £25 will be chargeable in the event of accidental damage which requires a device to be repaired or exchanged.

WHAT IS THE DEVICE AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

There are two devices – one for the Prep School and one for the Senior School.

The devices are made by ASUSTek

- Senior School Specification: 8GB of RAM, 128GB SSD, Intel I3 Processor
- Prep School Specification: 8GB of RAM, 128GB SSD, Intel Pentium Silver Processor

The features of the device which make it suitable for the pupils:

- An "inkable" screen with a "garaged" stylus. The pupils will be able to write on their screens.
- A "world-facing" camera so pupils can easily upload photographs of their work to their notebooks.

The specifications of the device for the Senior School are very similar to those used by the teaching staff.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL PROVIDE DEVICES THROUGH A PUPIL'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE SCHOOL?

We expect the devices to last for 3 years, and therefore will replace the Senior School device at the end of year 11.

The pupils will be provided with devices as follows:

YEAR 7	New Device
YEAR 8	Continue with device
YEAR 9	New Device
YEAR 10	Continue with device
YEAR 11	Continue with device (No charge in Year 11 for those pupils who join in Year 9)
YEAR 12	New Device (Unless a new device in Year 11)
YEAR 13	Continue with device. (No charge in Year 13 for those who join in Year 11)

WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO USE AN ALTERNATIVE DEVICE?

No. The purpose of the device programme is to have all pupils working on the same device which they and teaching staff are familiar with. Standardisation of hardware and software is an important factor to ensure that lessons run smoothly because the School can guarantee compatibility with the School's infrastructure. The School provides pupils with the training, technical support and insurance alongside the necessary software for the device to integrate with our systems and the online experience to be safe. Pupils will therefore be expected to bring the School device, charged up, to all their lessons.

Each device will be licenced with Microsoft Office 365. By mandating a device, the School can also swap, repair and support devices if there are any technical issues throughout the lifespan of the mobile learning programme.

We hope that by offering a school device the pressure on parents to choose a computer for school is removed.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL MANAGE THE PUPIL'S USAGE OF THE DEVICE?

In school and at home pupils' use of the device, including access to the internet, will be filtered and monitored. Academic staff will be able to see on a screen how every device is being used in a lesson if they wish.

Each device will be part of the School's tenancy with Microsoft, and the School will make use of a software package which is designed to allow schools to cover safeguarding, support and management of all devices, including online safety. These are key reasons why pupils will not be able to use their own devices.

The digital strategy is to make use of the digital world to support effective teaching and learning. Pupils will not be working online all the time, and the use of the device will be akin to an exercise book. It is a school device for learning, not a personal device.

HOW WILL THE DIGITAL STRATEGY HELP PUPILS ?

We believe there are many benefits for pupils from experiencing some of their teaching and learning digitally. These include:

- Becoming familiar with the Microsoft 365 suite of applications.
- As a discursive and feedback tool to enable staff and pupils to have meaningful communications regarding improving work. We see the efficiency in teacher's feedback on written work as a key advantage of teaching within the digital strategy.
- Use of Teams to organise and manage work and deadlines.
- Using the stylus as a means of annotating work and teacher notes.
- Using the internet to research and develop understanding.
- Facilitating individual learning and revision as pupils will be able to revisit work easily, including from lessons they missed due to illness. We see more effective catch-up as a key advantage of learning within the digital strategy.
- Have much of their work and resources in one easily accessed space. They will carry fewer books.
- All pupils benefitting from more organised notes. We see this as a major advantage of the digital strategy.
- Use of functions within Microsoft 365 such as immersive reader and dictation.
- Access to online retrieval practice resources and other applications which will benefit learning and revision.
- Aiding the effectiveness of collaborative work.
- Recording and presenting work through the use of multimedia applications.

Devices offer the flexibility for combining digital resources, including subscription resources, online materials from the web and electronic versions of textbooks. In addition, digital learning means that departments can reduce the use of paper and exercise books in favour of digital work where it best suits the needs of teachers and pupils.

Work that is completed on paper can be captured and stored electronically alongside digital learning by utilising OneNote and the camera. We strive to offer flexibility for teaching and learning by providing a system where analogue paper and digital documents can be captured, organised, and stored so no learning is lost.

HOW WILL PUPILS LEARN HOW TO USE THE DEVICE ?

At the start of the year, pupils will be given some instruction on how to use the device, particularly Teams and OneNote, which are at the heart of the strategy. As they use the devices more in lessons and as they move through the School, they will be shown how to use more of the functions of Microsoft 365 and other packages, such as immersive reader and dictation. There are pupils in the Senior School who already make extensive use of Teams and OneNote.

EXAMS ARE STILL PREDOMINANTLY CONDUCTED IN HANDWRITTEN FORM. IS THERE A RISK OF DEGRADING OUR PUPILS' SKILLS IN THIS AREA BY RELYING MORE ON TYPING AND DIGITAL INPUT ?

We are acutely aware that formal examinations are still in handwritten form and as outlined above, the benefit of the device is that analogue work can be scanned and captured using the camera, digital handwriting can be inputted via the stylus, and typed work can be inputted by the full-size keyboard. It is highly likely that examinations will be digitised in the future and we are planning for this transition. However, until that point, we will maintain full commitment to handwriting and preparing Gresham's pupils for long-form handwritten examinations. This will be reflected in the ways in which pupils work in class and prep time, and pupils' school assessments will be on paper.

HOW DOES DIGITAL LEARNING HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PUPIL BEHAVIOUR ?

We have high expectations of online and offline behaviour, and have systems and processes in place which monitor pupils' device activity. Teachers can monitor pupil device screens live in lessons and control the software and internet access they have access to. Screens can be closed to ensure teachers can focus attention on the front of the class when appropriate. Wireless connections on all devices allows for teachers to move freely around the classroom to manage behaviour as they would normally do.

HOW DO YOU RECOMMEND MANAGING THE BATTERY OF THE DEVICE ?

Pupils will be provided with a charger for the device and will be expected to start the day with a fully charged device. There are plugs available in classrooms if necessary, but pupils will need to learn the habit of keeping devices charged.

W I L L T H E P U P I L S S T I L L N E E D P R E P D I A R I E S ?

All preps and individual work for pupils will be set using assignments in Teams. This means pupils will be able to see all their work in one place, and when it is due. They will therefore not be given traditional prep diaries. They will be able to access the School Calendar and SOCS easily and make use of the Microsoft Calendar for their own organisational purposes.