Information for Current Grade 4 & 5 Students
(For students entering Grade 5 and 6 in 2017)

June 2016

Dear Parents /Guardians,

As 2016 progresses we would like to make sure the families of our current Grade 4 and 5 students are aware of two important events that will occur in future years, including the annual Grade 6 trip to Canberra and the introduction of the Bring Your Own Device program to the Primary campus. As there is a cost involved with each of these events we thought it prudent to give families plenty of time to prepare.

1) Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

At the moment primary students have access to class sets of computers which were purchased in 2010 through a Government grant. Whilst the class sets remain in a reasonable condition their frequent use and age means that the devices are often out of action, undergoing repairs or in need of replacement parts.

Under the College’s existing Bring Your Own Device program (BYOD), all secondary students are required to provide their own netbook or device for use both at school and at home. In 2016 this program has been extended to Grade 6 with the majority of students now using their own device at school. As the College’s fleet of devices continues to age, from 2017 onwards we will be extending the BYOD program to include Grade 5.

From 2017 onwards students in Grades 5 and 6 and all secondary students will require their own laptop device, either Windows or Mac, for use both at school and at home. Sacred Heart College has a virtual desktop (Citrix) which enables all students and staff to use any device on the College’s network. The power of the device is not critical as the actual device does little computing apart from providing a keyboard and screen, the desktop and hardware is provided by our server infrastructure. The College will provide students with an Office 365 account, the Citrix receiver and access to the College Wi-Fi system and Internet service.

Students require a laptop device to access digital text books and a wide variety of reference material and to access our Learning Management System known as Josie. Through Josie students are able to:
- complete work in class
- communicate with, and submit work to teachers
- receive teacher comments on work completed, and review their marks
- develop their own ePortfolio where they can store and showcase their work
- establish an individual style for their work
- access timetables, calendars and due dates and effectively manage their workload
- access the class page which includes class tasks, details of specific class events
- receive notifications of work required, upcoming events and class news,

General recommendations for laptop devices are as follows:
~ A Netbook with a minimum screen size of 11 inches (28cm)
~ A Laptop with a Maximum size of 15 inches (38 cm)
~ Windows 8.1 or 10 (If using a windows laptop)
~ Laptop bag
Please note: iPad and tablet devices are not supported by the Sacred Heart College BYOD program.

Repairs:
Although we can provide advice on hardware issues, the College ICT department is not able to repair student owned equipment beyond connecting the device to our network. If your device needs to be repaired the College can arrange for hire of a College owned netbook from the ICT department. When considering the purchase of a device it is worth looking into any warranty offered by the various suppliers. In some cases, repairs under warranty are completed in Hobart whilst others will send the device back to the overseas manufacturer for repair.

Looking After Devices:
The College encourages parents to insure the device under their home and contents insurance policy or take out a personal effects policy for the device. The College is not liable for loss or damage of any student owned equipment that is used as part of our BYOD initiative at the College or offsite. Netbook bags can provide some protection for devices. All secondary students also need to provide their own padlock or combination lock to ensure all their belongings are safely secured in their locker. Valuable items, including netbooks, should not be left in lockers overnight.

Our ICT Manager, Mr Stuart Brinsmead can be contacted by phone on 6279-4090 or via email on stuart.brinsmead@shc.tas.edu.au should you have any questions regarding suitable devices.

2) Canberra Trip – November annually
Over the last few years the Grade 6 classes have enjoyed a fantastic trip to Canberra. As part of the Grade 6 curriculum students visit Canberra to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of Australian history and democratic government. Over 4 days students visit iconic Australian monuments such as Old Parliament House and Museum, new Parliament House, the Electoral Education Centre, the Royal Australian Mint, the Australian Institute of Sport, the National Museum of Australia and the Australian War Memorial. The trip is a terrific experience for the year group, with many great memories shared, and a deeper knowledge of our nation’s capital gained.

Whilst the majority of students in both Grade 6 classes have attended in past years the trip is not compulsory. The Canberra Trip usually takes place in mid-November and historically has cost approximately $950 per student which covers airfare, accommodation, all meals and entry to all venues. The exact cost of the trip for the Grade 6 students is confirmed during Term 2 each year. To pay for the trip a separate Canberra account is established for each Grade 6 student, a deposit is payable by the end of Term 2 and the balance payable approximately 2 months before the departure date. The option to pay the trip off over an extended period is available to all families. If you would like to commence payments please contact the accounts office on 6279-4022 or by email at danielle.hill@shc.tas.edu.au to open a Canberra account and/or establish a payment arrangement.

Please contact the College if you have any questions about either program. Updated information on both the BYOD program and the Grade 6 Canberra Trip will continue to be provided to families throughout each school year.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Deayton
Principal