

November 2025



Dear Parents

You are receiving this letter because your child is in Year 6. Our senior classes make use of digital resources daily. As such, all students need a computer.

We strongly encourage students to have their own computer as this allows them to take it home daily which has proven very useful in recent times. However, we fully acknowledge that providing a computer is a large cost, and if this is difficult for your family, we will provide one which they can use at school.

The type of computer they need is described below. Our aim is to specify the most cost-effective option that will work reliably and do the tasks we need. These are not gaming computers.

Which Computer?

Windows 11 or Chromebook

Windows minimum suggested specifications:

- Storage 64GB SSD (128GB is better)
- Memory 4GB RAM (8GB is better)
- Screen 11" or up to 14" (15" models are quite bulky to bring to school)

Chromebook minimum suggested specifications

- Storage 32GB SSD
- Memory 4GB RAM
- Screen 11" or up to 14" (15" models are quite bulky to bring to school)

Sourcing the computer:

We can source you a suitable computer through our ICT Technician, Bob Cross, who is happy to answer questions. If you prefer, you can visit any local retailer and bring the minimum specifications (above). We recommend Noel Leemings and if you mention that you are from Sacred Heart School, they have a special price for Catholic School".

Essential accessories:

- **Case** - as the computer will be taken to school in a backpack, you only need a simple sleeve case to protect it (students will not bring the charger or cord to school).

Optional accessories:

- **A wireless mouse** (handy to have)
- **Extra warranty** (not recommended)
- **Antivirus software** (not recommended as we will setup the built in Windows Defender)
- **All other necessary software/programmes will be supplied by school.**

Thinking Ahead

Typically, you can expect at least 3 years running out of a computer. This means that your child's computer will go with them to secondary school. We have been in discussions with Roncalli College about their requirements and they are satisfied that the models we are using will be fine for Roncalli. (If your child takes graphics heavy subjects later in their secondary schooling, they will need a more powerful computer, but by then you will be looking at replacing their first computer anyway.)

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

Will I be able to use these computers at High School?

Yes.

Can my child take the computer home?

Yes. The computer is owned by you and is your property.

How will you keep them safe at school?

Sacred Heart owns over 100 computers. We have not had any stolen, however it is impossible to say that this will never happen.

What can I do if buying one of these computers will cause hardship to my family?

Talk to David in confidence. He will work with you to make sure your child can access one. The Board is committed to all students having access to a computer and will support families to achieve this.

Will I have to buy any other software or accessories?

No. We will provide the software your child will need. The only essential accessory is a protective case/sleeve.

I have two children who will need a computer – this is very expensive!

We agree. In this case, talk to David and he will explain how we can help you.

Will my child spend all day on the computer?

No. We deliberately design our programmes so that the students spend more time interacting with each other and the teachers than looking at the computer. In some subjects we do not allow the use of computers at all, for example in some mathematics learning.

Please ask us questions if you are unsure of any aspect of what we are trying to achieve, or how you can best source the computer. We do not take the provision of a computer lightly.

David Armstrong

Principal