

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted to share an important update about a new initiative we're introducing for our students. As education evolves, so too must our methods and tools. We are taking a balanced and thoughtful step forward by integrating devices alongside traditional books, offering students the best of both worlds to support their learning journey.

We have decided to make this change as so much of today's learning, particularly at the Senior Cycle, has shifted towards project-based work, which requires access to reliable digital tools. Additionally, upcoming state exams and future third-level education and careers increasingly demand strong digital skills. After thorough consideration, we've chosen student Chromebooks as a practical, manageable, and safe device to complement traditional classroom methods.

These devices will serve as a homework tool, reducing the need to carry multiple books daily. They will be managed securely, ensuring they are used for learning purposes only in school. They will provide a more structured and focused alternative to smartphones, addressing concerns about distractions and inappropriate use.

Please be assured that we are not becoming an "iPad school" or replacing traditional teaching methods. Instead, we are adopting a fully blended approach where books and devices work hand in hand to enhance teaching and learning. This initiative is supported by significant changes to the Junior & Senior Cycle curriculum, the proposed smartphone ban, and the growing need for digital proficiency.

To ensure affordability, devices can be purchased over a twelve-month period, and we will provide robust support for students and parents every step of the way. The intended costs will be approximately €540 and there are a range of payment options over a period of time. We understand that you may have questions.

Please join us on February 13th at 7.00 p.m. for an information evening in person where we will discuss:

- The reasons behind this initiative.
- Details of the chosen Chromebook model and its features.
- How the devices will be set up and securely managed.
- Support systems in place for students and parents.
- Costs and payment options.
- The next steps forward.

This evening is also a chance for you to ask any questions, so please feel free to prepare any you may have. Your input is invaluable as we move forward with this important step for our school community. Thank you for your support as we continue to enhance our students learning so they can succeed in both their academic and personal growth.

Kind Regards

Shane Hallahan