Dear Parents and Carers

**Laptop Information (updated November 2014)**

The Federal Government *Digital Education Revolution* (DER) program, which supplied 1:1 laptops, ended in 2013 and, as a result, we have had to ask parents and carers to fund their child’s laptop.

In recent years, during the life of the DER, staff at McAuley Catholic College have worked hard to incorporate new technologies into the curriculum and teach our students many of the 21st Century learning skills so necessary in today’s ‘digital age’ – skills which go far beyond the use of the internet and search engines and include such things as

- collaboration
- creativity
- innovation
- critical thinking
- self-directed and personalised learning
- problem solving
- digital citizenship (incorporating digital literacy, digital conduct, digital health and wellbeing and digital footprint)
- life-long learning

This includes the use of Google Drive and the creation of engaging digital content using tools such as Microsoft Office, Prezi, Glogster and Google Sites to name a few. Students are using laptops to access and interact with digital content created by teachers on platforms such as Moodle and Google Drive. Clearly, familiarity with digital environments is an essential part of the mix of necessary skills for our youth to take into the workforce.

Due to the overwhelming success of using 1:1 laptops as a teaching and learning tool we are committed to continue using them in the classroom and therefore must ask parents and carers to supply a device for their sons and daughters. We are acutely aware that this is an additional cost burden for parents and carers, however we see no alternative.

What happens to existing laptops issued under the DER?

The devices already in use will remain with students until the warranty runs out over the next few years. (see chart below) The Technology levy of $160 per year will continue to be charged, on a ‘pro-rata’ basis to cover Microsoft licencing, virus protection, internet connections, download costs and battery replacements, plus various other costs. When the warranty on the school-issued laptop runs out, the device must be returned and a replacement laptop will need to be purchased by the family. The technology levy will change as detailed below when this issued device is replaced by a parent/carer purchased device. The choice to purchase the ex-DER laptop used by the student will continue to be an option, however, there will be no warranty or service protection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Warranty Expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Lenovo X120</td>
<td>February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>HP 5103</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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OPTIONS FOR PARENT/CARER PURCHASED LAPTOPS.

Option 1: Purchase a ‘preferred device’ – payment in full ‘up front’.

The College has negotiated with our current computer supplier, the Somerville Group, to provide us with a preferred laptop. The cost will be approximately $1150.00 for the laptop. ($1135.00 was the cost at the last rollout.) This will provide onsite warranty, Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) Cover, virus protection, download costs and technical support from the College help-desk for the life of the warranty. Laptops supplied under this scheme, as well as the on-site warranty and support, will be similar to what is currently in use at the College. The College Technology levy for this option would be $80 per year to cover Microsoft Office licencing, data connections, download costs and other expenses associated with ensuring access to the network.

Option 2 – Borrow a college-owned device and pay an Extended Technology Levy.

The College would purchase a preferred laptop (as in option 1) and loan it to your son or daughter. For this option the College would require you to make an initial fee instalment of $200 followed by a payment of an Extended Technology Levy over 2 years at the rate of $185 per term (total $740 per year). This will also cover Microsoft Office licencing, data connections, download costs and other expenses associated with ensuring access to the network. This Extended Technology Levy will be billed or charged as a part of your normal College Subject Resource fees but payment must be made by a direct debit from your bank or finance institution at $185 per term. This is the minimum periodic payment, but parents can make smaller payments more frequently if they choose. If there is a default in payment of this direct debit there will be a $30 administration fee and the laptop will be withdrawn immediately from your son or daughter until payment of arrears is completed. If the student leaves the school during the two years of the agreement, the laptop remains the property of the College unless the full payment for the two years is made with pro-rata reduction of the technology levy. Please Note: This option will be available ONLY to parents who have demonstrated a willingness to meet school fee commitments and who have met with the Principal or Bursar to discuss payment priorities.

Comparison of costs between Option 1 and Option 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Option 1 Preferred Laptop Pay ‘up-front’</th>
<th>Option 2 Preferred Laptop - on loan Pay Extended Technology Levy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Purchase laptop <em>(price based on 2014 - subject to increase)</em></td>
<td>$1150 Initial fee instalment *Extended Technology Levy (including College Technology Levy) @ $185 per term for 4 school terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Technology Levy</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>College Technology Levy</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extended Technology Levy (including College Technology Levy) @ $185 per term for 4 school terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>College Technology Levy</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>College Technology Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost after 3 years</td>
<td>$1390</td>
<td>Total cost after 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Option 3: Purchase your own small laptop which conforms to the following guidelines.

- Small laptop (current small laptops have 11 inch screens which should be OK – any bigger than about 15 inch means the device is probably too heavy and bulky in school bags).
- Windows 7 or 8 Operating System.
- Battery life sufficient for full school-day. *Battery chargers cannot be brought from home and used at school due to Workplace Health and Safety restrictions.*
- Parents must also ensure that the laptop has a recovery partition or recovery DVD so that the device can be reset.
- Virus protection. (May be standard on a purchased device)
- Your own personal insurance and damage protection. *The College cannot supply Accidental Damage Protection and will not be liable for any damage to devices.*
- Must be robust construction and able to withstand student use at school
- Protective case or bag.
- iPads and smartphones are NOT suitable for use in class at this time.

The College Technology levy for this option would be $80 per year to cover Microsoft Office licencing, data connections, download costs and other expenses associated with ensuring access to the network.

**Assistance available.** Parents who are unable to fund the purchase of a laptop are asked to contact the Principal, Leon Walsh or the Learning Technologies Co-Ordinator, Lex Carruthers to discuss assistance available, which may include provision of an older device for a negotiated fee. This will be a confidential discussion.

Please note that NO family should consider withdrawing their child from the College because of financial hardships caused by the cost of providing a laptop.

**Parents of Year 7 students for 2015.** Laptops will be needed for classes starting Week 4 of Term 1. It is expected that all Year 7 students will carry a laptop by that time.

**Parents of students with DER devices.** It is expected that students will have their replacement laptops ready for use when the warranty on their issued DER device expires as shown in the table above. However, families may be able to continue use of the DER device under separate terms and conditions. Contact Mr Carruthers for further information

**Parent Information Sessions.** Parent information sessions will be conducted at relevant times to further explain the details above.

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Lex Carruthers  
Learning Technologies Co-Ordinator

Leon Walsh  
Principal