Bring Your Own Device Program
Frequently Asked Questions
for parents and students

What is BYOx?
BYOx stands for Bring Your Own X (suitable device for school use). It is a scheme designed to allow all students at Beerwah State High School to have access to digital learning.

SMARTPHONES are considered a secondary device. This device is not considered the primary device that meet the minimum specifications required for a BYO device.

Why BYOx?
Previously the federal government funded NSSCF program provided laptops to students. Other schools were charging excess of $150 per year to be a part of these programs. We kept these devices at school to minimise the cost to parents. This program no longer exists but the school needs students to have access to the Australian Curriculum as it is delivered in Queensland State Schools. This requires Beerwah High to be able to deliver the curriculum digitally across all subjects.

Beerwah High is delivering lessons using technology across **all year levels** and needs to continue this practice to effectively deliver the curriculum and continue to develop students as contemporary learners.

Why do parents need to pay for students to participate in the BYOx program?
There is a $20 annual fee to join the BYOx program. Other schools are charging excess of $60 per year. We have kept the connection fee to a minimum. The charge is to pay for an external party to keep students safe online.

School fees must be paid in full, or an agreed payment plan, before a student can participate. The fee is not pro-rata if the student joins part way through the year.

How will my child be using their device in the classroom?
Technology is a tool in the day-to-day learning of contemporary students, not a special event or something separate from their everyday experiences. Different teachers in different classes will use technology in different ways. Students will not be learning in a paperless or wholly online environment. They will be using technology in classes to support the best possible approaches to rigorous teaching and learning.

How will my student keep their device safe?
Parents are encouraged to purchase a protective case and students are encouraged to use this case for all transportation of the device during the school day. The school does supply some lockers for student usage. Locker allocations are available at the beginning of the year.

Why does my child still have to have a textbook list?
The school is in the process of developing quality electronic resources and students will be provided with access to etexts. However, students will still have textbooks in some subjects where etexts are unavailable. Some publishers have yet to offer their books in an electronic version and it is important to give access to the best resources to support student learning.

Why do the students still have to buy traditional stationery to use in class?
Having a device in class will not make Beerwah High a paperless school. Many aspects of learning will best occur through students experimenting with a pen and paper, or manipulating things in a traditional way for many years to come. When the best way to engage with ideas or concepts is through technology, teachers will use it.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer?
Plan to purchase a device suitable for school needs. The estimated cost is from $250 to $1000. The cost will depend on the device selected. Please do not over invest. Students don't need an expensive device.

If you already have an iPad or laptop at home, don't panic. Many of these devices will be suitable for use in the classroom and will save you having to purchase a new device. Check the minimum specifications.

What are the minimum requirements for a computer?

Minimum Requirements

Machine type:	Laptop, iPad, Tablet
Screen size:	7 inches or more (touch is optional)
RAM:	Minimum of 2GB, 4GB or higher is recommended
Operating system:	Windows, Mac, or IOS
WiFi:	Wireless networking capacity (WiFi)
Battery life:	Minimum battery life of 6 hours to cover the school day

Please Note: In Years 10 – 12, students enrolled in Graphics, Media or Film and TV are recommended to purchase a device with a dedicated video card – high end devices. Computer labs will be made available for these classes.

Unsupported Devices
The following devices are currently not compatible with the BYOx platform:

LG G3 Smartphones 2 Windows RT Windows Mobile 8 Windows Mobile RT	Windows Surface 8 Windows Surface RT Linux/Unix/BSD/*nix

Necessary Software
Microsoft Office "Student Advantage Program" supplied free of charge via download (Included in this free software package is licencing for each student to install on up to five devices).

Other items the school recommends parents/carers purchase
– Protective case
– Pointing device (mouse or stylus)
– Onsite warranty (Next Business Day (NDB) Onsite Warranty is STRONGLY recommended)
– Accidental Damage Protection insurance (ADP) preferably from the manufacturer
– Check your Home and Contents Insurance for appropriate cover

Do I need a graphics card?
No. Graphics cards are mainly used for playing games.

Does my device require antivirus software?
All students MUST have appropriate antivirus software installed on their device and are required to keep it regularly updated. There are many antivirus software products available online that are free for personal use.

Can the school advise what make and model of computer to buy?
No, but Beerwah High technicians can give examples of suitable devices.

Why can't I buy an Android device?
These devices do not join the EQ supported BYOx console. They generally don't have the hardware requirements and the device is not supported on the network.

What if the laptop is stolen or damaged?
The school will not responsible for the safety of personal devices. Secure storage of the laptop is the student and parent's responsibility. At the point of purchase it may be wise to discuss with vendors arrangements regarding "Accidental Damage Protection", and putting the device on your home contents insurance is highly recommended.

How is the device kept safe when not in use?
At present, there are a number of lockers available for students in the BYOx program to use. It will be the student's responsibility to supply a lock and keys for the locker. It is also highly recommended that parents invest in a suitable bag to carry the computer in that will offer some degree of protection.

How will students be kept safe online?
Access to the Internet at school is filtered. As part of the curriculum, students are instructed on Cybersafety. At home, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure any appropriate content filters or controls are applied to internet services. The school accepts no responsibility for consequences of internet access outside the school.

Will students be able to borrow laptops from the school?
The school has a small supply of communal laptops that may be accessed. Please appreciate there are a limited number of devices in this fleet.

We will have a few computer labs available for teachers to access. Individual students will not be able to leave their class to use these devices. A teacher may take a whole class to use the facility.

What if I cannot afford to buy a laptop?
Computer vendors may provide payment plans or rental options. Discuss payment options at the point of sale.

What if I cannot afford to pay the connection fee?
Contact the Principal.

How can I afford to pay my outstanding fees and have access for my child to the BYOx program at start of year?
Contact the Principal to organise a payment plan.