



It is recommended that you print this flyer to take with you when investigating laptops to purchase

Please see the BYOx Program Information Handbook on the College website

<https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology>

What does my student need to bring to school each day?

- A Windows or Apple (MacOS, **not** iOS or iPadOS) operating system **laptop** that meets the minimum specifications as listed below in the Minimum specifications for Laptops section

NOTE: Devices with ChromeOS (Chromebooks), AndroidOS and Linux operating systems are not able to be connected to the Department of Education BYOxLink (EQNet) wireless networks, and should not be brought to school

- Other required items listed below – **all must be named to allow the owner to be easily identified**

NOTE: Participation in the BYOx Program is a condition of participation in Academic Achievers and Music Excellence Programs. Students in these programs are not eligible for the College BYOx Equity Program.

Why Laptops?

- Provides a standardised teaching and learning environment for staff and students
- Ensures compatibility with College owned computers to minimise connectivity and user issues
- Students can create and use a wide range of complex digital content across all curriculum areas
- Laptops are the most suitable and cost-effective device to meet all curriculum requirements at this point in time; the minimum specifications generally provide a three-year laptop lifespan subject to individual use and care

MINIMUM specifications for Windows OR Apple (MacOS) Laptops:

NOTE: Apple (MacOS) laptop required for students choosing to enrol in Music Excellence

- **Laptop Size:** minimum 11-inch size (**NOTE: maximum 14" recommended to avoid breakage and minimise weight**)
- **Operating system:** minimum Windows 10 64 bit (**NOTE: most new Windows laptops are now Windows 11; S mode is not compatible** – see <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/switching-out-of-s-mode-in-windows-4f56d9be-99ec-6983-119f-031bfb28a307>) **OR** Apple MacOS Monterey Version 11 (**NOTE: most Apple laptops are now MacOS Ventura or Sonoma**)
- **Battery:** minimum 6-8 hour battery life
- **Processor:** minimum Intel Core i5 or equivalent (e.g. AMD; M1 or M2) (**NOTE: Laptops with Arm64 Base processors are not compatible**)
- **Display:** minimum HD (High Definition)
- **Graphics:** minimum Intel UHD (Ultra High Definition) graphics or higher (**NOTE: Newest Apple laptops may not come with VGA or HDMI ports – adaptor required if students need to connect to data projectors or digital televisions e.g. presentations**)
- **Memory:** minimum 8GB or higher
- **Storage:** minimum 256GB solid state hard drive (SSD) (**NOTE: 512GB is recommended if using an optional dual boot setup (i.e. Windows and Apple operating system) on an Apple (MacOS) laptop or student will be creating large image or video files. If needing to store a large number of audio/video etc. files, consider purchasing minimum 512GB SSD external hard drive.**)
- **Ports:** USB port (file storage or transfer, or connectivity to other digital devices); consider purchasing an external USB hub for additional USB-A, USB-C and a HDMI port as needed (**NOTE: many new laptops come with USB-C ports only – a suitable adaptor will need to be purchased to enable a USB 2.0/3.0 device to be plugged in**)
- **Network connectivity:** 5 GHz Dual Band AC compatible Wireless (**NOTE: laptops which only have 2.4 GHz wireless connectivity will not connect to the Department of Education BYOxLink (EQNet) wireless network**)
- Integrated speakers and microphone and webcam (standard in laptops)

What if my student wants or needs to run specialist software that requires higher specifications?

Some subjects (e.g. Technology and Design; Film and Television; Visual Arts; Music; Digital Technologies) use specialized software (e.g. for computer aided design or CAD; image and video editing software; animation; immersive technology e.g. virtual and virtual reality; music composition) which requires upgraded hardware components to run efficiently on the laptop. More information about specific software used in subjects can be obtained through each subject Head of Department by emailing BYOx@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au.

If your student wants or needs to install and use higher end software programs on their BYOx laptop, it is recommended that the following hardware components be upgraded **at the time of purchase**:

- **Processor:** Intel Core i7 or Apple (MacOS) equivalent (e.g. M1Pro, M1Max, M2Pro), or higher
- **Graphics:** Dedicated (built-in) Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)
- **Memory:** 16GB or higher
- **Storage:** 512GB solid state (SSD) hard drive or higher; additional minimum 512GB external SSD hard drive for backup and storage of large files recommended

Other required items:

- Headphones with microphone to suit laptop (e.g. for online meetings, viewing videos, recording audio)
- **Hard protective** water-resistant laptop case to suit laptop model. **NOTE: Rubber sleeves do not protect laptops. Warranty and/or accidental damage insurance may be voided if suitable case not used, or laptops placed directly into student bags without a case. Case must be strong enough to protect the laptop inside the student's school bag**
- New laptops only – USB-C adaptor to suit laptop model for connecting USB 2.0/3.0 devices

Required software: See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/software-for-students>

- BYOx Link (Microsoft InTune) is used to connect BYOx laptops to the Department's EQNet wireless network – information is emailed to parents/carers and students just prior to the start of the new school year
 - Security software suite with anti-virus and anti-malware e.g. Microsoft Defender (Windows 10/11); McAfee, Avira
- NOTES:**
- *Cyber security experts recommend that free security software, including anti-virus and malware software, not be used, and that purchased security suites provide greater protection*
 - *Security software may impact on the ability to connect student BYOx laptops to the state-wide Department of Education EQNet wireless network. Students need to be able to turn off security software if required (local administrator permissions), else parents/carers (with username and passwords) will need to come with the student to the Student Tech Hub in the Middle Senior Library to connect the laptop (8 am recommended).*
 - *Microsoft Family and Qustodio (MacOS) do not allow students to connect their BYOx laptops and should not be installed.*
 - Microsoft 365 (including Office suite) - free for state school students) <https://education.qld.gov.au/parents/school-information/Documents/office-365-windows-instructions.pdf>
 - Internet browser (**NOTE:** Microsoft Edge is the default Windows 10/11 browser; Safari is the default Apple MacOS browser. Students should also install Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox as alternative browsers as different sites work better with different browsers)
 - Adobe Creative Cloud software – required by students in Visual Arts and some Digital Technologies subjects; recommended for all Year 6-12 students (e.g. for video and image editing). In previous years, all students received an allocated “named user licence” funded by the College, subject to annual budget approval process (not finalised at this point in time). Further information will be emailed to students and parents/carers at the start of the new school year.

Other recommended items to be considered for purchasing:

- Mouse (USB or wireless)
- Minimum 3 year warranty with next day on-site support. (**NOTE:** Parents/carers should investigate Australian Consumer Law prior to purchasing additional warranty and seek clarification from vendors what repairs and/or replacements would be covered under this law <https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/consumer-rights-guarantees/warranties>)
- Minimum 3 year Accidental Damage insurance
- Adaptors and USB hubs – see information above
- Backup up storage device e.g. USB or external drive (size depends on amount and size of files)
- Additional laptop charge cable with power pack (e.g. if living across two households or as a spare)

Other recommended software: See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/software-for-students>

Software used in each subject and year level is generally given to students by teachers at the start of each school year, semester and/or unit of work. If this information is required prior to purchasing a new laptop, contact the relevant faculty Head of Department by emailing BYOx@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au. Note that upgraded specifications may be required for some individual programs - see “**What if my student wants to run specialist software that requires higher specifications?**” above for more information.

See also <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/software-for-students>

Other software to consider (but not required) – Apple (MacOS) laptops only:

If Apple (MacOS) laptop model supports this (new M1 or M2 chip laptops may not), consider purchasing a Windows 11 licence to enable the Apple laptop to also run Windows software. New M1 chip Apple (MacOS) laptops may allow Parallel software or similar to be used for dual booting. Apple vendors should be able to provide this service for a reasonable charge if dual booting capabilities are needed (most students will not require this). Contact licensing@data3.com.au to enquire about student licencing arrangements for Windows 11 operating system or purchase through a Windows reseller.

Purchasing Considerations:

A wide range of computer vendors and laptop makes and models should be investigated, and “total cost of ownership” considered. **The cheapest laptop may not be the most economical over the life of the laptop** - usually minimum 3-4 years depending on individual usage and care, and the laptop build quality and hardware. Consider included components, technical support, warranty and accidental damage arrangements. Upgraded laptop specifications generally provide better performance over a longer period of time, depending on individual usage.

The following documents at <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/bring-your-own-device-byox-program> assist with the decision-making process when comparing laptop makes and models: [Laptop Purchase Decision Making Matrix](#); [Laptop Pros, Cons and Questions](#).

The College takes no responsibility for private laptop purchases and/or finance arrangements. All issues with laptop purchases or technical issues need to be taken up with the vendor. Repairs are not able to be arranged to be done by vendor technicians in the College. Deliveries must not be made to the College.

See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/bring-your-own-device-byox-program> for more detailed information, and links to vendor information and portals/online stores. The College takes no responsibility for any information or offerings provided on vendor portals.

What connectivity is available?

- Student laptops connect to the EQNet wireless network through a Department of Education approved technical solution BYOx Link (using Microsoft InTune) to ensure security requirements are met
- Information about how to onboard student BYOx laptops using this state-wide BYOx Link solution is sent at the start of the year, with information also available on the College website – see (<https://qedu.sharepoint.com/sites/2409/Student/MS/BYOxSupport/>) (student username and password required)
- Once connected, students can access Department of Education online services for file access and management (Microsoft 365 OneDrive), filtered internet, and printing services on their BYOx laptop

IMPORTANT: The Queensland Department of Education does not allow students to use VPN on a BYOx laptop; this results in student accounts being disabled due to suspected overseas log-ins. Students must not “hotspot” their BYOx laptop to their mobile phone or other mobile internet devices, and must connect their BYOx laptop to EQNET. Students should also not install browser extensions (e.g. Tetra, VPN Surf, Free VPN in Google Chrome) as this may cause issues with connecting to EQNET and EQGUEST.

Refer also to the College ICT Network Access and Usage and Mobile Phone policies on the College website. Personal (e.g. smart phone hotspot) and free Wi-Fi services may be a security risk and/or give access to inappropriate websites.

What if I can't provide a laptop due to financial hardship?

For families experiencing financial hardship, a **limited** number of College owned laptops are available for borrowing from Student Services each day on a first in basis.

Applications for participation in the College Equity Program are through the relevant sub-school Principal at the start of each year. Information and application forms are distributed at the start of Term 1 each year, and then made available on the College website.

NOTE: *Bringing a BYOx laptop each day is a condition of participation in the Academic Achievers and Music Excellence Programs. Students choosing to enrol in these programs are not eligible for the College Equity Program.*

What if I my child has an issue with their BYOx laptop on a particular day?

A **limited** number of College owned laptops are available for daily borrowing each day on a first in basis from Student Services. Information is communicated to students and available on the College website at the start of Term 1.

Are there any BYOx Program Costs?

No. All BYOx costs (including Equity Program and daily borrowings) are included in the ICT charge in the annual College Student Resource Scheme which also contributes to connectivity infrastructure, technical support and licencing costs.

For further information contact the Head of Department, eLearning, Sue Isbell on 07 3552 7333 or email BYOx@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au