



ABINGDON

From Director of eLearning: Mr B Whitworth

17 October 2014

Dear Parent

## 2nd Year iPad Scheme

I would like to invite you to a meeting for parents of those involved in the second year iPad scheme. As you will be aware, they have had the devices for 6 weeks and are using them throughout lessons and homeworks. As part of our ongoing monitoring of the scheme we have been talking to the boys, tutors and teachers, but we would like to hear your thoughts as well. We have arranged an evening on Monday 10 November at 5.30pm in the Sports Hospitality Suite for an informal 'open forum' hosted by me, Graeme May (Deputy Head Academic) and Adam Jenkins.

This is the second year we have given iPads to the 2nd Year and, it is fair to say, staff are using the devices less intensively than 12 months ago at the launch of the scheme (which is a good thing!) but in a much more focussed and effective way. The key points we have taken on from last year include:

- Using the camera to take pictures and videos of experiments in Science (as well as making a video diary) but then sharing them between the boys using AirDrop and email.
- Developing targeted opportunities for assessment, such as Socrative
- Increased guidance when researching topics on the internet
- Continued monitoring of how well the devices are functioning
- A common way of using Google Drive to hand in work

On top of this, we have embarked on a few more initiatives, all with their advantages and pitfalls:

- A greater use of online textbooks and resources (Maths and Science)
- Having the web filter on the iPads enabled at all times, including at home
- Using the new Study Site (FireFly) for setting prep
- Dedicated training sessions at the start of term covering online behaviour, basic iPad usage, Notability and transferring files between apps.
- Tutor time looking at how much screen time is 'normal'.

I hope this gives you a flavour of what has been going on, but we are keen to hear your experiences. Please let us know if you are planning to come by responding to Shirley Morris at the email address below, remembering to include your son's name and tutor in the email. If you would like particular things/topics addressed then just add them to the email.

Yours sincerely

Ben Whitworth

Director of eLearning

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