



ABINGDON

From Director of eLearning: Ben Whitworth

23 September 2016

Dear parent,

How pupils interact with the world has changed radically over the last decade. Mobile phones have made the internet ubiquitous; the power of personal devices has increased whilst the cost of technology has decreased. At Abingdon we are determined to fully prepare our pupils for the 21st Century.

Over the course of this term we will be allowing Middle and Upper School pupils to connect their mobile phone, tablet or laptop to our school wireless network. We are doing this because we want to facilitate the use of technological tools that will benefit their education. To begin with this might include: evaluating the credibility of a website; online research; contributing to a shared document; watching an educational video on our Learning Site (Firefly) or taking a photo of notes in class.

As the world moves online the boundaries between the digital and real world become less distinct. We will continue to support students to learn how to use both worlds effectively through the 2nd year iPad scheme, discussing challenges in PSHCE and the tutor group in Safer Internet Week, using our existing ICT suites and the new compulsory Computing curriculum for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years. Our library is working to support online as well as offline resources, and the Yang Science Centre has spaces for students to meet, work and use their own devices.

We are excited about the educational possibilities of personal devices, however we still believe that an excellent education should include a variety of approaches. We do not believe that technology can take the place of excellent teaching and strong relationships between teachers and pupils. We do believe, however, that the best teachers benefit from using the best tools, and that it is important that we enable teachers and pupils to harness the power of technology for educational purposes.

I have included a FAQ document for parents which will hopefully address your questions and concerns. Do contact me if you wish to discuss these changes further.

Yours sincerely

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