



Burnett State College Bring Your Own Laptop Program

What is BYO and how does it work?

BYO stands for “Bring Your Own” Laptop. It is a scheme designed to eventually allow all students at Burnett State College to have access to digital learning. At the start of the program it will be offered to Year 9 – 12 students, and extended later.

The schools wireless systems has been upgraded to handle access from private devices. It will be managed via a ‘concierge’ system, which will allow private devices to connect to the school network and EQ filtered internet.

What is a suitable laptop?

All laptops for use at school must have:

- Windows 8 or 10
- up to date antivirus and security software (available for free from Microsoft)
- Microsoft Office software installed (available for free for student use from Microsoft)
- a “proper” keyboard (large enough to touch type, with moving keys not a touch pad)
- a CPU (processor) and memory (RAM) capable of running multiple programs at once (e.g. word processor and Internet) – at least Intel Core I3 with 4GB memory or better.
- a screen at least 11 inch, 13-14” is strongly recommended, especially for senior grades
- a hard drive or SSD (solid state drive – faster) with at least 128GB capacity

Can my student bring an iPad or Android tablet to school?

No – these devices are not supported and are not compatible with the software students will need to use for class work. They also do not have a keyboard or mouse trackpad that is suitable for high school activities.

Why BYO?

Previously the federal government funded NSSCF program provided laptops to students. 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 our College to be able to deliver the curriculum digitally across all subjects, and eventually for all year levels.

Burnett State College is delivering lessons using technology and needs to continue this practice to effectively deliver the curriculum and continue to develop students as contemporary learners.

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.

Will everyone use the same kind of computer?

All BYO computers will use Windows 8 or Windows 10. The exact model of computer might vary, but all will have to meet a minimum standard to join the network. This will include things like having wireless networking, and a suitable processor and memory.

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.

Is buying a BYO device for my child compulsory?

No – not at this time. However, it is a prerequisite requirement to have a laptop for some subjects (such as Distance Education classes) at school. This can be a BYO device or from the existing laptop program for as long as it lasts.

As is presently the case, access to a take-home laptop (school or personal) will be a distinct advantage when completing assessment, and is likely to help with study and other homework, as well as for communication with teachers.

Why does my child still have to have a textbook list?

The school has developed quality electronic resources and students are 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 our College 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 for a recommended device through the supplier portal is from \$800 to \$1500, depending on options chosen. The cost will depend on the device selected. For example, a Year 12 student planning on attending University might get a more powerful computer with 3 year warranty and insurance, and plan on using it for their first two years at University.

Do I have to pay to use the BYO network?

The cost of access to the BYO network will be added to your student's school fees. A payment plan for school fees can be arranged. So long as payments are up to date, your child will have access to the BYO wireless network.

Will computer rooms still exist with the BYO program?

Computer rooms will still exist at Burnett State College, but some rooms will be gradually returned to traditional teaching rooms. The computer rooms that will remain will be exclusively used for grades and classes which do not presently have access to the BYO or laptop programs.

Will the current laptop program still exist with the BYO program?

Yes, we will continue the existing program while the current student laptops are covered by warranty and accidental damage protection, to support families that are not in a position to purchase a laptop at this time.

Do I need to buy AntiVirus software for my device?

It is a requirement that you have up-to-date antivirus software installed on your personal device. This will be checked prior to connecting to the network, and it must be kept up to date to be able to continue to connect. Click [here](#) for the free Microsoft antivirus solution – it is more than adequate, and completely compatible with Windows.

What will students do if their computer needs servicing?

The College's Technical Support team can help students solve minor issues or problems with software applications. The laptops recommended and purchased through the College supplier portals are all supported by good quality warranties to deal with hardware failures. There is a loan scheme to provide students with a laptop while their own device is being repaired, and technicians from the recommended suppliers will visit the College to make repairs there.

Can a student laptop have its own access to the Internet?

No – all student laptops must only be able to use the College network to access the Internet. They must not have 3G/4G mobile access while at school.

Can we purchase any Windows 10 laptop we like from any supplier?

The College has recommended devices and suppliers accessed through portals from the College website. All these meet the minimum requirements and have onsite, business-level warranties and accidental damage insurance for 3 years.

If the device purchased does not have those protections, parents/carers will be responsible for all the costs of repair or replacement in the case of damage, and will have to deliver the laptop to the repairer.

What will happen if a BYO laptop is damaged at school?

Accidental damage is covered if you have the recommended insurance. If not, then any damage will need to be paid for before the manufacturer or repairer will make the repairs. Note that it is not the responsibility of the College to arrange any repairs or insurance claims.