



# MATER DEI LAPTOP ROLLOUT FOR 1:1 LEARNING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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# INTRODUCTION

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## WHAT IS 1:1 LEARNING?

“1-to-1 (1:1) Learning” provides students with personal laptop computers to enhance their opportunities for learning. The laptops help teachers at the College engage students by nurturing individual (or 1:1) learning experiences, enabling them to adopt an *anywhere, anytime* approach to their studies.

Increasingly, there has been a global move towards implementing these programs in Colleges. Of greater interest is how they are being used for learning in ways that deepen students’ understanding of concepts and advance the Colleges’ knowledge of how to use digitally rich ICT environments for teaching and learning.

## WHY DOES MATER DEI WANT TO USE 1:1 MODEL FOR LEARNING?

In 2008 we embarked on a development of our technology infrastructure to support an anywhere, anytime philosophy for learning. As we progress down the path of 1:1 learning it is essential we hold true this philosophy. It is imperative to realise that by providing a Technology rich learning environment we are fostering students who can truly become creative and innovative lifelong learners.

In 2011, we will begin implementing a 1:1 Learning Program. This will enable students to have their own personal laptop for use in all learning situations whether it is in class, other College learning areas, boarding or home. This move towards a 1:1 learning model fosters an environment that supports students to develop skills in areas such as:

- Critical thinking
- Student-centred learning practice
- Working collaboratively
- Learning to share in ethical ways
- Shared knowledge construction
- Problem solving

With the introduction of the 1:1 Learning Program, we are making progress toward providing our students with the very best tools to engage in contemporary learning, thus **keeping the focus on technology as a tool and not an end in itself**. As teaching and learning practices have evolved, so too has our use of technology and now we embark on the next exciting phase of this journey.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF 1:1 LEARNING?

Current thinking describes computers as a mind tool to enhance the learning process. David Jonassen describes Mind Tools as:

“...a way of using a computer application program to engage learners in constructive, higher-order, critical thinking about the subjects they are studying. The learner enters an intellectual partnership with the computer and begins to access and interpret information, and organise personal knowledge in new ways. Mindtools are computer-based tools and learning environments which serve as extensions of the mind.” (*Computers in the Classroom: Mindtools for Critical Thinking*; Jonassen, D. 1996, Prentice-Hall)

All students will have the opportunity to realise increased opportunities as they develop as knowledge creators and knowledge workers. This is a goal of the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (December 2008).

All NSW Board of Studies syllabi incorporate technology outcomes into programs of study, and all subjects at the College are embracing technology in the curriculum. By moving to 1:1 learning, students will have the benefits of an *anywhere, anytime* learning environment.

## **MATER DEI CATHOLIC COLLEGE 1:1 LEARNING PROGRAM ROLLOUT**

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### **WHAT IS THE PLANNED ROLLOUT OF LAPTOPS?**

In 2011, Years 9 to 12 students will receive a laptop. In 2012, Years 7 and 8 students will receive a laptop.

### **WHAT IS THE LIFECYCLE OF THE LAPTOP?**

The laptop will have a four year lifecycle and may be given to more than one student in that time. For example, a student in Year 11, 2011 will have the laptop for two years and return it to the College at the end of Year 12 to be reissued to another student until the laptop is four years old.

### **DO I OWN THE COMPUTER AT THE END?**

The government has provided some funding for the purchase of a laptop. This funding has been offset against the full price of the total package. Students will be given a laptop at the conclusion of Year 12, but only if the device is four years old. Therefore, the student in Years 10, 11 and 12, 2011 will be expected to return the laptop to the College when they leave school.

### **WE HAVE A LAPTOP AT HOME, WHY DO I NEED ANOTHER ONE?**

To manage the learning environment effectively, the College has decided that all students involved in the 1:1 Learning Program will have the same laptop.

# **INSURANCE AND DAMAGE**

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## **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD BREAKS OR LOSES THEIR LAPTOP OR IT IS STOLEN?**

The College will cover the theft or accidental damage to the computer. For instances where damage was caused wilfully, or due to irresponsible, careless or reckless actions, the student(s) responsible for the damage will be liable for the cost to repair or replace the device.

# **LEARNING MATTERS**

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## **WILL THE LAPTOP BE USED IN EVERY LESSON?**

The 1:1 Learning Program is based on the notion of “Anywhere Anytime Learning”. The laptop will be used when it is appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes of the lesson or course. Students will need to take the laptop to each lesson.

## **WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR HANDWRITING SKILLS?**

Yes. The use of pen and paper is still very important and all teachers will still incorporate activities and work that requires handwriting in their course work.

## **WHAT IS THE BOARD OF STUDIES POSITION ON HANDWRITING?**

The Board of Studies is predicting that the HSC will become an online assessment in the future. We are exploring strategies for online assessment at the College.

## **WILL MY CHILD STILL NEED TEXTBOOKS?**

Yes. However, the College is investigating ways to streamline the use of text books to help reduce both costs and College bag weight while enhancing learning. Booksellers are being asked to provide textbook DVDs where possible. We are exploring options for websites and PDF texts at a reduced cost.

## **WILL MY CHILD BE ALLOWED TO SIT THEIR EXAMS USING A COMPUTER?**

No. The Board of Secondary Studies, NSW dictates to the College the conditions under which students can undertake their exams. In order to reflect the Board’s requirements, students will not be allowed to take a computer into College or School Certificate or Higher School Certificate. Computers are granted to students (with profound disabilities) to write their exams under very stringent conditions. In many cases computer requests are declined and students are instead offered other forms of assistance such as a writer to take their dictation under separate supervision.

## **HOW WILL MATTERS ARISING OUT OF INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE LAPTOP BE MANAGED?**

We are currently implementing programs and methods to ensure students learn about responsible use of the laptop and internet during their time at Mater Dei. The use of computers at Mater Dei is not new and there are many policies already in place. The College currently addresses issues as they arise and there are procedures in place to manage these.

## **HOW WILL WE, THE COLLEGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS, MANAGE THE INTERNET ACCESS AND APPROPRIATE COMPUTER USE?**

The College has existing acceptable use procedures, and security and web filtering will be consistent with existing policies. On occasions at the direction of the Principal, students will be randomly selected to return the device to the Learning and Technology Assistant who will check if inappropriate applications and software have been added to the device. If so, they will be wiped clean from the device.

At home, parents will need to monitor computer use. The device can be connected to the home network or wireless internet connection and would be subject to whatever filtering parents have put in place.

## **HOW DOES THE COLLEGE MONITOR SOCIAL NETWORK (IE FACEBOOK) SITES?**

All websites are monitored and filtered for all students. The College allows access to the social network sites after College, after study and during the weekends. These are on restricted hours.

## **HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE MATTERS**

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### **WHAT IS THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF THE LAPTOP HARDWARE?**

The College is working on a four year lifecycle for the laptops. We have been assured by our supplier that the batteries have a lifecycle of 1000 cycles; based on this use, the life should be in excess of three years. Batteries are treated as a consumable and replacement cost will not be covered by the College.

### **WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO LOAD THEIR SOFTWARE ON THE LAPTOP COMPUTER?**

Generally no; however, if the software is for educational purposes and does not compromise the functioning of the laptop, this could be approved by the Principal.

### **WILL IT WORK ON OUR HOME WIRELESS?**

Yes. It is the parent's responsibility to connect the device to the home network. We can provide some basic steps which will assist you in setting up the laptop on your home network.

# DAY TO DAY MATTERS

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## HOW WILL MY CHILD TRANSPORT THE LAPTOP?

Each student will be provided with a strong bag to carry the laptop. The bag can be placed inside their school bag when travelling to and from the College.

## HOW DOES MY CHILD BACKUP THEIR WORK?

There is some storage capacity on the College network for student work. Furthermore, there is substantial storage of the Laptop device itself. It is the student's responsibility to 'back up' their work regularly. Failure to back up on a regular basis could mean that the student's work may be lost forever.

## HOW WILL THE DEVICE BE SECURED AT COLLEGE?

During College time it will be in the possession of the student or locked in a locker during breaks.

## WHAT ABOUT CHARGING THE BATTERY?

It is the student's responsibility to charge the battery overnight. We want to establish good battery life habits. Students will have limited access to power connections in the classrooms during the day and during study. Students will not be provided with a replacement laptop in the event they forget to charge their laptop or forget to bring their laptop to school.

## WHAT PRINTING PROVISIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE?

At the College, students will be able to print to a range of locations. At home, they would use the home printer.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LAPTOP IS NOT WORKING?

Students will bring the laptop to the Service Desk in the Resource Centre for assessment and repairs. There will be replacement devices available whilst repairs are made. This service is part of the Technology Levy.

There will be a service agreement with the provider which looks after the laptops allocated to students all year including holidays. DELL will provide a national number for students to contact after hours and during the holidays for support.

'Frequently Asked Questions' will be updated regularly on the College website:

[www.mdccww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mdccww.catholic.edu.au)