



# Digital Learning Scheme

# INTRODUCTION

## A Digital World

In schools, we cannot hide from the fact that the world is changing at an increasing rate. At Heathfield we believe we are not just preparing students for now but also for the future. The way in which people work and the jobs our students will find themselves in are constantly changing. Technological developments impact all our lives on a daily basis.

Young people are more adept at responding to change. They have the ability to apply their learning skills to a variety of situations and are able to engage in applications that may have only been established months previously.

At Heathfield we are committed to delivering a curriculum that allows for traditional methods of teaching and learning to take place with the support of new digital technologies. Our staff are able to select the most appropriate resources to enable student choice, personalisation and engagement in learning.



## The Digital Learning Environment

The iPad provides a teaching and learning resource which allows students to engage with subjects in a variety of different ways that were not previously possible.

Staff have the ability to share resources and give feedback simply and efficiently. The use of our Learning Platform enables students to monitor and plan for work that needs to take place outside of the classroom and access specific resources needed for these activities.

The iPad can give immediate access to resources that are recent and relevant to topics being taught in class. Subject specific applications can support the delivery of topics to help and guide students during revision and homework activities.

The methods that students use to demonstrate their understanding also widens. Work can be written, recorded, photographed or filmed. Students can present their work in high quality publications, recording their progress.

“After seeing them in lessons I am more confident of the value of the iPad and their appropriate use.”  
Parent Learning Walk Feedback

## The Role of the iPad

When deciding upon a device to implement a whole school Digital Learning strategy, it was decided that a portable tablet would be the most appropriate. A tablet would allow resources to be accessed with ease; it would be lightweight and portable. It would also be durable and reliable.

Following a range of research which considered the type of tablets, the concept of different devices and the use of laptops, it was decided that consistency was vital and a single device must be used. This consistency would allow the College to implement a scheme ensuring teachers, students and parents could receive the necessary training and support using the devices. It also ensured that the management of the devices and apps would be reliable and easy to deliver across the whole student body.

Based on research into the different types of tablets on offer, it was decided that the iPad met the requirements of the College. The iPad is recognised around the world as the tablet of choice for educationalists. It also has the strongest foothold and is one of the most reliable devices on the market. The Apple App Store is also increasingly populated with high quality apps to support learning both at home and in the classroom.

# THE SCHEME

## Our Provider

The College works in partnership with the Apple Specialist Retailer, SYNC. The company who administer the scheme on the College's behalf. SYNC are a long established provider of IT solutions who are passionate about education, and in addition to providing us with the method of delivering our devices, they work collaboratively with the College to further enhance our provision. SYNC work in partnership with CHG-Meridian who lease the devices and CPU who process the direct debits and provide the insurance.

## The Contribution from the College

The College continues to support ICT across the curriculum and manages its infrastructure which includes:

- High quality wireless internet access
- A specialist team of IT Support Technicians
- Developing opportunities for Student Leadership through our Digital Genius programme
- Training and support for students to ensure they make the most of the devices in their learning.

The facilities already in place across the College support students access to subject specific software through the use of desktop PC's and Apple Macs.

As a College we also share resources to support students and parents when using the iPad. This includes guidance for settings along with useful resources about the common Applications used when learning.

## The Contribution from Families

This leads us to the contribution we are asking from families. We are inviting families to play their part in supporting the Digital Learning scheme to allow students to access the latest resources for their learning. Although the immediate product of this scheme is an iPad, it is categorically a learning scheme that we are asking parents to contribute to on a monthly basis over a three-year period. In 2023 the scheme cost is £14.50 per month and will run for 36 months covering years 7 to 9. It is expected that students can continue to use this iPad in

college in years 10 and 11. This may be a way for families to reduce costs as long as the iPad is protected for continued use. At the start of Year 10 a new scheme will be offered to parents, but there will not be an expectation that parents have to sign up and students can continue to use the initial iPad in college.

This device will be yours to keep at the end of the scheme, assuming that all monthly payments have been made

The current cost of being part of the scheme includes:

- The cost of the iPad
- A highly protective case
- A range of paid for Apps including Firefly, our Virtual Learning Environment
- Provision of a mobile device management and communications system
- Wi-Fi and broadband systems
- Insurance Cover provided by CPU



“ The iPad has enabled my daughter to be far more organised and responsible than she might have been. ”

Parent Learning Walk Feedback

## A Commitment: Every Child Will Have Access to this Opportunity

We are committed to every single child having an equal and fair access to our digital curriculum within the terms and conditions of the scheme set by GBM and through the College Behaviour Policy.

We hope the vast majority of families will be able to support the programme through the scheme. However, if a family already owns an iPad. Or wishes to purchase one independently they may wish to dedicate it to the use of their child.

The minimum device required by students is an 8<sup>th</sup> generation (2020) iPad, therefore any device purchased outside of the scheme must be this version or later. This is to ensure that all children can access the Apps being used in the classrooms. A small charge is also applied to allow students access to College based applications, the management system and IT Support. This charge is currently £10 per year.

## How Often Will the iPad Feature in the Learning?

Our Curriculums are built around the opportunities provided by the iPad, however, no subject will use it all the time. We encourage our teachers to use the most appropriate methods to deliver the content and skills required in their subject.

The iPad provides a connection between the work being completed in College and the work completed at home. It allows students to access all homework tasks and resources through Firefly along with giving access to files saved on the College system.

Teachers can also use the features of the iPad to allow students to record, photograph or present their homework in different methods giving variety to students learning activities.

## Safe and Unlimited Storage of All Work

Students have a number of facilities to back up work from their iPad. Students will be set up with both Google Drive and One Drive accounts for documents produced. Students can also back up to their iCloud storage directly from supported applications or through saving in the

Files app. Along with this, students can back up their device to iCloud.

At Heathfield Community College all students will be issued with a Managed Apple ID which provides them with 200GB of iCloud storage.

Students and families will be given instructions and access to online guides on the best ways of managing the space on their iPads along with how to upload work into the highlighted areas.

## Student Safety and Screen Time

The safety of students is paramount for us at the College. We have invested in hardware and a mobile device management system which can focus permissions down to individual websites or control access to an individual App at any given moment.

The Operating System provided on the iPad (iOS) comes with a large number of features that can allow parents to limit the amount of time spent on a device, along with altering light levels at specific points during the day. Guidance on these features is provided through our Parent Dashboard in Firefly.