

Digital Learning Scheme

Heathfield
Community College and Sixth Form

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 Chromebook 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 Learning Platforms 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 Chromebook can give immediate access to resources that are recent and relevant to topics being taught in class. Subject specific resources 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.

The Role of the Chromebook

The college started working with iPads in 2012 and we launched our first scheme in 2013. Back then the landscape was very different and the iPad had significant advantages over Chromebooks. Over the last 14 years the landscape has changed and Chromebooks are now a better choice within education.

Google provides an extensive range of education solutions that integrate natively with chromebooks, providing a seamless experience. The devices are quicker to repair and it's easier for us to allocate a spare device when repairs are required. All this significantly reduces the time a student is without a device.

They also come with keyboards and pens which further help to improve productivity.

The iPad remains an excellent choice and we will continue to support this in other year groups whilst we transition to Chromebooks over the coming years.

THE SCHEME

Our Provider

The College works with Google education partners. These partners are long established providers 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. We also work in partnership with GoCardless who process the direct debits.

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 Lead 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 both Windows and Apple computers.

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 a Chromebook, it is categorically a learning scheme that we are asking parents to contribute to on a monthly basis over a 12 month period. In 2026 the scheme contribution is £30.15 per month and will run for 12 months covering years 7 to 9. It is expected that students can continue to use this Chromebook in college in years 10 and 11. This may be a way for families to reduce costs as long as the Chromebook is protected for continued use. At the end of Year 9 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 Chromebook in college.

If you are joining mid-year then the same scheme can be offered. However the amount of monthly contributions may need to be adjusted if the total months would exceed the student's time at the college.

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

The current scheme includes:

- The cost of the Chromebook
- Provision of a mobile device management system
- Wi-Fi and broadband systems
- In house repair service with labour included and a maximum £50 parts cost per repair.

Repair and Replacement Fund

The scheme includes a contribution to a *repair and replacement fund*. In the past the college used an insurance provider. However we found that frequently claims were rejected for unfair reasons which then placed a financial burden on parents.

If the chromebook is accidentally damaged then the college will repair the device. Labour is included and part costs are subsidised with a maximum cost of £50 per repair. This service can be used a maximum of twice per academic year. After this parts will no longer be subsidised and the full price for parts will need to be paid. Please note that the college reserves the right to refuse to repair a device if the damage is caused by negligence or intentional damage.

Loss/theft is not covered by the *repair and replacement fund*. We recommend that the device is added to your home insurance policy.

The *repair and replacement fund* also functions as an extended warranty once the initial warranty period expires.

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 College Behaviour Policy.

If a family already owns a Chromebook, or wishes to purchase one independently then this can be set up for the child to use.

The device should be no more than 3 years old. This is to ensure that all children can access the resources being used in the classrooms. The college has to purchase a license to manage a Chromebook which permanently gets assigned to the device. This will be covered for the first device supplied for a student under the bring your own device scheme. If the device is changed in the future then a £25 charge will apply.

How Often Will the Chromebook Feature in the Learning?

Our Curriculums are built around the opportunities provided by the Chromebook, 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 Chromebook provides a connection between the work being completed in College and the work completed at home. It allows students to access all homework tasks through Arbor and supporting resources through the various learning platforms the college uses.

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

Student Safety and Screen Time

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