

# Implementation of Bring Your Own Device at Tumut High School - Term 2 2020



## **Rationale - Why is there now an emphasis on BYOD at Tumut High School?**

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) has been a concept in many schools for a number of years. The Department of Education (DoE) 2013 Literature Review highlighted the compelling reasons for why having access to an individual device was becoming increasingly more significant - the devices being a significant part of student lives, being necessary to build 21<sup>st</sup> century skill capacity, enabling personalised student centred learning, increasing parental support and having access to 'the cloud' have all contributed to schools pushing to implement BYOD.

## **Why hasn't Tumut High School embraced this policy to the same extent as other schools?**

Put simply the issues surrounding equity and the ability for all students to own devices, knowing which device would provide the best tool for the task, concerns around distraction and possible damage to individual property have all made a whole school approach at Tumut High School problematic.

## **Why change this approach now?**

The reasons outlined in the 2013 Literature Review still remain as relevant today as they did back then. However, since 2013, computers and computer software have become a greater part of the educational environment. Teachers across NSW, including Tumut High School, are regularly using educational software to help in how they deliver curriculum in the subjects they teach.

To this point in time, Tumut High School has predominantly provided access to devices through technology in specific settings (computer rooms, Resource Centre, Dual Learning Spaces etc). Some teachers have certainly been using individual computers in class settings, however this is more 'the exception to the rule'. Tumut High School's present approach has enabled the school to cater for the equity issues surrounding who can afford their own device and also enabled the school to manage the limited access students had to the school wireless network.

## **Is Tumut High School now in a better position to better embrace BYOD?**

The simple answer is yes. Since 2013, more students at younger ages have access to their own device. The school's ability to support students in loaning devices and the capacity to have a greater number of devices accessing our network has significantly improved. This combined with an increasing acceptance from teachers and educators of the role educational software can play in providing greater capacity to differentiate learning has meant we believe we are ready to begin a greater emphasis on BYOD.

## **Is Tumut High School ready to implement an increased emphasis on BYOD?**

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has placed a greater emphasis on the significant role of technology in education. Many experts see this moment as a turning point in how educational systems will develop. With this in mind Tumut High School believes we both should, and can, have BYOD become more significant at our school. Remote learning associated with COVID-19 has shown many students have the skills and capacity to incorporate greater use of BYO devices into their learning. Remote Learning has also enabled ALL staff to enhance their skills with technology. We believe we are now better equipped to incorporate the more obvious benefits of technology across the WHOLE school into every classroom, not simply the specialist computer spaces.

## How does Tumut High School now have a greater emphasis on implementing BYOD?

We believe our first steps in BYOD needs to be as a minimum, keeping alive the concept of 'Google Classrooms' as a learning tool. We know many students have accessed Google Classroom (GC) during COVID-19 and we certainly know all staff have.

### So how do we begin?

- We update our BYOD Policy to enable students to bring their own device to school.
- We explicitly teach students and staff the process and responsibilities involved in accessing the DoE wireless network.
- We acknowledge senior students (Year 10-12) are more likely to have their 'own' laptop or similar device.
- We clearly understand the increasing role Smart Phones have as a BYOD and take into consideration that approximately 85-95% of students have access to a Smart Phone. Many students during COVID-19 have accessed GC with their phone.

### Why also have Mobile Phones as a BYOD?

The debate surrounding mobile phones in schools has always been controversial and has become even more prominent over the last few years. Opinions can be and are diverse and some of these are outlined in this article from 2018;

<https://theconversation.com/we-asked-five-experts-should-mobile-phones-be-banned-in-schools-98708>

It's important we outline why Tumut High School is now placing a greater emphasis on mobile phones in school. Like some of the views expressed in the article provided, we believe the mobile phone has a place in students' lives. However, at the moment this is being dominated by social networking. We hope to evolve students' view of smart phones to include a realisation of the potential of smart phones as a learning tool. We hope that by also including mobile phones as a BYOD, we will have a greater number of students accessing learning through the use of their own device.

### What is our plan?

We plan to take a staged approach to how we have a greater emphasis on BYOD.

- Stage 6 students will be encouraged to bring along a **laptop** (or similar) device with the knowledge that work is being placed in their GC and access provided to Edrolo enabled.
- Stage 5 students in **Year 10** will be treated like Stage 6 and will be encouraged to bring along a **laptop** (or similar) device with the knowledge that work is being placed in their GC. **Year 9** students would have a transition year where they have their **Smart Phones** but could also have a **laptop**.
- Stage 4 students will be encouraged to bring along their **Smart Phone** with the knowledge they can use it to access GC (to view learning) and be able to participate in basic class activities such as Kahoot and simple responses to Google Forms. Students can also bring an alternative device to a smartphone if they have one.

### What about those that do not/cannot have their own device?

We understand that not everybody will have a mobile phone/lap top, or decide to bring one. We will initially observe how this is catered for and use these observations to develop a strategy so that no student is disadvantaged. Please note that this is a strategy that will evolve as we learn from the early stages of implementation.

**Please note that under BYOD, full responsibility for the security of the device is taken by the student and student's family.**