

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) @ NPGHS

With the commencement of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme, we are now encouraging girls to bring their own digital devices to school to support their learning. This programme is a major outcome of the work of the Board of Trustees ICT Committee. This Committee, the Senior Leadership team and other staff have done extensive research about BYOD programmes using the Ministry of Education resources, other schools' experiences, conference presentations, consultants and other professional networks. Currently work is in progress to set up the school wide Wi-Fi network which will enable wireless access to Ultrafast Broadband (UFB) internet. The network will be operational by the end of this year. We are also looking to connect to the Ministry of Education Network 4 Learning www.n4l.co.nz services when they become available next year.

The rationale for introducing BYOD is to enable girls to access and create digital content whenever it is appropriate to enhance their learning. BYOD is a natural extension of girls' use of their own digital devices outside of school. The New Zealand Curriculum states:

"Information and communication technology (ICT) has a major impact on the world in which young people live. Similarly, e-learning has considerable potential to:

- *assist the making of connections by enabling students to enter and explore new learning environments, overcoming barriers of distance and time;*
- *facilitate shared learning by enabling students to join or create communities of learners that extend well beyond the classroom;*
- *assist in the creation of supportive learning environments by offering resources that takes account of individual, cultural, or developmental differences;*
- *enhance opportunities to learn by offering students virtual experiences and tools that save them time, allowing them to take their learning further.*

Schools should explore not only how ICT can supplement traditional ways of teaching but also how it can open up new and different ways of learning."

This is reflected in the NPGHS Strategic Plan Goal 4 - *To develop and enhance teaching and learning through the use and application of ICT.*

Already some girls are bringing laptops, netbooks and tablets (iPad, Galaxy tablet etc) to support their learning at school. We are now encouraging girls who have a suitable device to bring it to school; however, we do not require that girls bring one. Individual teachers will speak to their classes about when and how devices can be used in their classes. Students without a device will be catered for in a variety of ways and will still have a full educational experience. For example, the existing school laptops will be more accessible as other students will be using their own devices. Subjects requiring specialist computer access will continue to be timetabled into existing school computer facilities. The feedback from surveys conducted in 2011 was that a significant number of girls already had suitable devices and were willing to bring them to school.

Please note the following regarding BYOD:

- Owners should take care over the security of any devices brought to school. They are brought to school at the owner's risk and are not covered by any school insurance. Parents and caregivers are advised to check the status of their own insurance cover for them.
- Use of devices will be determined by the teacher. The Building Positive Relationships (BPR) Programme has been extended to cover any issues that may arise.
- When the school Wi-Fi network is enabled, the internet access will be filtered in a similar manner to that currently used. User access will be logged and can be monitored.
- The school cannot monitor student's own 3G mobile internet usage on personal devices.
- The school Wi-Fi network will only allow access to internet based resources.
- Parents and caregivers are not required to buy new devices. However, if you are considering it then the school recommends any device purchased should have at least a 10" screen, web browser software, be Wi-Fi enabled and have a long battery life.

Currently a programme to support girls to become good digital citizens is being implemented. The school values of Respect, Responsibility and Relationships are central to this programme which has its foundation in the Building Positive Relationships (BPR) Programme. Digital citizenship includes being safe online and the appropriate use of digital technology. Put succinctly "you should only post or do things online that you would do face to face". Parents and caregivers are reminded that www.netsafe.org.nz has excellent resources to refer to about such things as online safety and cyber bullying.