



Dear 2017 Parent

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

We look forward to welcoming you to the College family next year.

As ICT Director, I oversee technology and its use across all the schools. My first love, and great passion, is the development of ICT for its ability to redefine and hugely benefit the learning and teaching processes. Increasingly our role as educators is not only to provide information but to teach boys how to select, interpret and work with it in its various forms. Our classrooms are equipped with WiFi and sophisticated technical and software back-end systems to support the teachers and boys in maximising the educational experience.

One of the things your son will most likely be very excited about in his first year here at College, will be the purchase of his own laptop.

This year a number of parents were disappointed and frustrated by extra costs that were incurred because the incorrect machine/supplier had been bought/chosen for birthday or Christmas presents. Please do not make this mistake. The school asks you to hold off buying a machine until the laptop committee makes its recommendation. Early each year parents are invited to volunteer to serve on a laptop parent committee. The aim is to arrive at a recommended choice of machines for boys to use. This committee reviews the various laptop models available and selects a group of robust machines which offer the best combination of support, warranties and value for money. The school requires a five-year warranty. We understand brand loyalty and personal preference, which is why there is more than one machine on the list. The chosen machines become the requirement until the following year's procurement process is complete.

Information about what laptop to purchase and where to purchase the laptop from is available on [our website](http://college.bishops.org.za/academic/laptops/Purchasing.aspx) (<http://college.bishops.org.za/academic/laptops/Purchasing.aspx>), as are the contact details for iSquared ([bishops@isquared.co.za](mailto:bishops@isquared.co.za)) and Digicape ([bishops@digicape.co.za](mailto:bishops@digicape.co.za)), the preferred suppliers for this year. The original cut off dates for the special order for the 2016 Grade 8s have expired but the suppliers will provide new quotes if for some reason you absolutely have to buy a machine immediately. Both suppliers understand the school requirements and will assist. Please contact them directly.

2016 was the first year that the school implemented a new policy where it became compulsory for every boy to have one of the recommended machines purchased from one of the recommended suppliers. The machines have a five-year warranty. The policy change followed repeated proposals from parent committees over a number of years, and is now strictly enforced. School technical support is positioned to help the teachers and boys with their use of technology in the classroom, and the school is not geared to manage a big repair centre. There is of course excellent on-campus support (outsourced), but the overhead of this to the school is limited because of warranty and uniformity structures in place which allow for appropriate streamlining and economies of scale. We are able to demand a very satisfactory turn-around on support from the outsourced company because of this.

We hope that you understand that these measures are in place to ensure that the school is able to focus on delivering first-class education, which includes using up-to-date technology to its best advantage.

Warm regards

Sally Bowes  
IT Director

*inspires individuals*

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