



Dear Parent

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.

New boys coming in to Grade 8

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. 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. The school asks all parents of boys coming into Grade 8 to hold off buying a machine until the laptop committee makes its recommendation. If for some reason you absolutely have to buy a machine immediately please make an appointment to see me.

New boys coming in to grades other than Grade 8

It is policy that every boy has one of the recommended machines purchased from one of the recommended suppliers. The machines have a five-year warranty.

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>), as are the contact details for i-Squared (bishops@isquared.co.za) and Digicape (bishops@digicape.co.za), the preferred suppliers for this year. The original cut off dates for the special order for this year's Grade 8s has expired but the suppliers will provide new quotes. Both suppliers understand the school requirements and will assist. Please contact them directly.

Laptop Support

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
ICT Director

inspire individuals

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