

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Learning Programme**

### **What kind of precautions will the school take to ensure that the students do not become victims of theft, once knowledge that they are carrying ipads is out there?**

*Our research into programmes offered by other schools has revealed that despite what you might think, there has been very little incidence of theft of any devices that the schools were using, even amongst those schools that introduced the programme to year 7. Although you might argue that these devices were not ipads, for the schools involved, the Netbook/Laptop represented a radical departure from normal ways of doing things and so for them, were attracting high levels of attention. We are aiming to support students with good sensible advice with regard to carrying the devices to and from school. In addition we will be offering an insurance programme for parents, but parents may of course, choose to cover the device through their existing arrangements.*

### **Why have you chosen an Apple Product when 95% of the world runs Microsoft applications? What will you do about compatibility?**

*The ipad, will run on an apple operating system. We see this as a distinct advantage. The only way that any new software can be installed on the ipad is through the itunes store, where all applications are virus/malware checked and tested to check that they run well. We will not have any problems with students installing inappropriate applications on the devices or spyware/viral programs that are often attached.*

*At school we are aiming to develop ICT capability in students which means that we are developing their ability to sift through the plethora of applications in the market place to find an application that is fit for purpose. We believe that once a student has understood an application like spreadsheets for example, then they can transfer that knowledge to any software manufacturers spreadsheet application, since the principles and mechanisms in each application are more or less the same. The ipad will come suited with iWorks, Apple's version of Office. The current version has complete compatibility with Office, there are some differences in the menu structure, but certainly much less difference than in the different versions of Office that appear from time to time. Young people are remarkably adept at finding their way around new environments, especially when there is a core similarity.*

### **Ipads are going to be much more expensive to run than netbooks, aren't they?**

*The cost of running a Netbook far outweighs the cost of running an Ipad. The technical support for netbooks is far less, but add to this the exorbitant cost of Microsoft products, Adobe products and others. The fact that a Netbook will not run some of the more processor/memory hungry programs such as CAD/CAM is also a negative factor. We would still be in a situation where we would need to run terminal services or similar which again is enormously expensive to buy the hardware and then the licences necessary to run 1000 devices.*

### **Why have you chosen a device with a touchscreen keyboard which might be uncomfortable for students and not a built in proper keyboard?**

*With regard to touchscreens, we find that our girls prefer the touchscreen variety on their mobile phones to phones that have fixed keyboards. The girls are remarkably adept at texting and emailing by phone, I think that they will be quite comfortable with a touchscreen keyboard and quite excited by the novelty of it. The ipad screen is high resolution and larger than that offered by most Netbooks*

*and although the size of the work area may be reduced by an the fullsize standard onscreen keyboard, our experience of having school owned Laptops for student use is that the keyboard is one of the first parts of the Laptop that gets damaged quickly.*

**The ipad has no USB port and no means of being able to copy files to and from CD/DVD and print to a computer? Why introduce a device that is limited in this way?**

*Our intention is to use the benefits of this technology to move towards a print free environment. Students regularly email staff with work and many also use our Virtual learning Environment to upload homeworks for staff to assess. If students would like to print work, they will be able to upload wirelessly to our network, but we would discourage them from doing this. In addition, Apple has introduced an SD card reader to import photos and movies, which could also be used for documents and presentations see <http://www.apple.com/ipad/specs/>. A connector is provided for direct connection to a school PC.*

**I am worried about the ipad not working with or messing up our wireless network at home which is currently working with our Laptops and PCS**

*Apple have designed all of their products with wireless in mind. When you buy a PC, you're buying hardware from one company and an operating system and software from other companies. This is not the case with Apple. Because Apple builds both the computer and the software that comes with it, they are quite literally made for each other. Ipad touch users will note that these devices connect seamlessly with any wireless network once the network keys are known. We anticipate that the ipad will operate in the same fashion.*

**There are cheaper Laptop and Netbook devices in the market place, why have you gone for a more expensive product?**

*The ipad is more expensive than some net books in the marketplace. Our tests have shown however, that if we want a Netbook that has similar processing power and battery life, then we will have to pay within a similar price bracket. By purchasing through the school, parents are able to avail themselves of an educational discount and will not need to pay the VAT and this would apply to any number of children in a family. Please remember that for the time being we are rolling out the programme with Year 9 only. Year 9 students will keep that ipad until Y11. It is then theirs to take with them when they leave Davison in Y11.*

*One of the attractions of ipad for in-school use is the length of the battery life. Apple are quoting 10 hours when showing video. The best Netbook we have tested (costing more than the ipad) has a battery life of about 6 hours when playing video. In addition, there is a neat USB cable connection which means a girl could connect to any of our 350 network PCs to recharge the ipad if absolutely necessary. We cannot have trailing power cables and transformers needed to recharge netbooks/laptops in school for health and safety reasons.*

**Will you be offering insurance?**

*We will offer insurance through the finance packages that we are using to support the programme. We are able to obtain a bespoke insurance package at a fair rate for parents, but clearly parents can opt out and insure the device through their own preferred policy if they wish. Parents would need to provide the school with evidence that this is the insurance route they have taken. We shall continue*

*to investigate further insurance packages that will suit both parent owned and school owned devices as there will be worthwhile savings through economy of scale for a group policy.*

**What steps are you taking to make sure devices are cybersafe?**

*In school, all email traffic is monitored by our exchange servers. Any abuse of email is picked up by staff and dealt with through the normal channels. All internet access for pupils is filtered by the Local Authority which means that access to social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace is blocked. In addition, our Firewall prevents the installation of Instant Messaging software. One of the significant benefits in using the Apple Ipad is that students will not be able to access programmes from anywhere other than the iTunes store; applications that have already be proofed for viruses/spyware/malware. Through the timetabled Personal Development Lessons, students are equipped with the skills necessary to use the internet safely.*

**Will students be able to access the Internet from their mobile phones if they have wi-fi?**

*Over the Easter period we are installing a MERU single cell wireless network. We believe this is the most reliable wireless network in the marketplace in terms of both performance and coverage. Students will be able to access the same filtered internet content as the ipad via mobile phones. However, mobile phones do not offer the same size keyboard or come with learning applications.*

**Who owns the ipad when it is in school?**

*At the moment we are considering two options. If a parent pays for the ipad through the school then the device is owned by the parent. If however the parent engages in a pay scheme then the device becomes the property of the school until the final payment is made. It would be important to stress that the payment plan details at this stage (March 2010) are dependent on the information returned in the parent survey. If the parents choose a 2 years payment option for example, when their daughter leaves in y11 and the ipad has been fully paid up the device will become the girl's property.*

**Will students have access to different applications and will the content be controlled?**

*At this early stage, this issue is still under discussion. Many schools that operate a Netbook/ Laptop scheme have shifted the responsibility of sensible use of the devices on to the student. This means that there are few technical constraints on the applications that students are able to access. In lessons therefore, if a student has opened up an application unrelated to the learning programme, then she will be subject to normal school procedures such as detention, or with persistent offenders, removal of the right to use the device in school. These protocols for these circumstances would have to be agreed with parents. All internet content will be filtered by the Local Authority.*

## **How will important documents such as coursework be protected from accidental loss?**

*At the moment, there are no USB ports or CD/DVD drives on the iPad. There is a card reader accessory, which will enable the upload and download of files between devices. However, Apple is committed to the use of file transfer via the wireless network. We will make the student filespace available to users on their iPads for them to save their documents. This filespace will automatically upload to the school servers over the wireless network. All documents are backed up nightly on the school's servers.*

## **What applications will be installed on the iPad?**

*The applications installed as standard will be the ones advertised on the Apple website at <http://www.apple.com/ipad/features/>. In addition we will install Apple iWorks and or Office. We know that the iPad has been developed with 2 markets in mind: Education and Medical. We anticipate that when the device appears in the shops on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April in the USA, we will see a number of bespoke educational applications appearing in the iTunes store designed specifically for the iPad. We don't think that this is a leap of faith in this product but trust in the track record of the iPhone and iPod touch. Since 2007 140,000 applications have been developed for both products, 10,000 of them have been developed for education.*

*The reason for opting for the iPad is that we believe that it will provide students with a way of learning that cannot be delivered with a Laptop. The multitouch screen connects students with their work in a way that the small and much less bright screens of a Netbook will never do. The iPad has a high resolution screen with IPS technology meaning that it can be viewed from any angle which is ideal for student paired and group collaborative work. The sheer lightness and versatility of the device combined with features such as GPS and a compass means that the iPad can be pointed at something to provide students with an augmented reality that is simply not possible on other devices. Please take a look at some of the books that are being developed for the iPad at Penguin, if you ignore the first example which is clearly targeted at small children, you will get an idea of the power of this device -<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QCAPv-1KuU>*

## **iPhone/iPod Touch Applications that we have reviewed and like include:**

**Xewton Music studio** – students get to develop their own multitrack songs through an onscreen music keyboard

**Cadtouch**– A CadCam application that enables students to design 3D Models

**Achievers Writers Centre** – developing the perfect essay in English

**Augmented maps** – point the device and bring up maps of the area from different historical periods

**Language Podcasts** –Students can listen to any number of language podcasts and also create their own podcasts for uploading onto iTunes

The standard **Maps and Google Earth** applications provide basic references for any Geography lesson. The facility to Zoom into landscape features and look at terrain and map together enhances the teaching of geography immensely

**Mental Maths and GCSE Maths Revision** – Tools to sharpen up your maths ability

**The Chemical Touch** – exploring the properties of the periodic table

**Easy Books** – A budgeting Application for Business Studies

**National Gallery/ the Louvre** – All the gallery masterpieces contained in these 2 free applications are available for students to research and interact with.