1:1 iPAD PROGRAM

Information for Parents:

Comet Bay College courses promote excellence and provide challenging and stimulating learning experiences and opportunities. We recognise the importance of providing students with access to 21st Century skills, knowledge and values that now underpin the Australian Curriculum that is being implemented over the next two years.

After trialing the program for the past two years, we would like to offer all students in 2015 the opportunity to participate within the program.

Some of the major benefits of the 1:1 program include:

- programs to provide students with a digital device to maximise their opportunities for learning;
- the devices compliment the use of interactive whiteboards, digital resources and technologies;
- the devices provide networked technology for effective two-way communication and collaboration between teachers and students;
- the iPad mini device weighs less than 300 grams and will add minimal weight to students' bags but can provide access to many text books;
- technology-rich teaching increases student engagement, participation and excitement.

Comet Bay College staff are continually involved in a comprehensive professional development program about the use of ICT in the classroom.

As part of being allowed access to the College network, all students must sign the College's 'Information Technology Users Agreement' contained within the Permissions and Agreement Enrolment booklet. This is an overarching policy that covers student access ie; being given a login and password. However, students who wish to 'Bring their own Device' are required to also, along with their parent/guardian, to sign a 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) Agreement. The major points of the BYOD agreement are as follows:

- The College or DoE are not liable in any way for any loss or damage of the device. It is highly recommended that the device be covered under parent's household contents insurance.
- While at the College the device, is used for educational purposes.
- Students using the device inappropriately (Contravening the Information Technology Users Agreement).
- The College is not responsible for the cost of applications or any cost incurred to this device while on College grounds.
- Students are responsible for the safe care of their device at all times. When not in use, iPads should be kept with the student at all times. Students should always carry their iPads in their schoolbag when traveling to and from school.
- Students should arrive at the College with their device charged. The College does not loan or provide chargers.

Students can load their own applications onto the iPad to supplement the suite of designated applications selected by the College.
To protect students from unsuitable content, website filters will operate at the college, content will be periodically checked and learning activities supervised. Parents are advised to supervise internet use at home and consider setting screen time limits to avoid overuse. The College can provide parents with tips on safe and responsible online behaviour.

Tips for parents

1) You don't need good computer skills to help your child learn to use their iPad. Your interest and encouragement are more important than computer literacy.

2) Encourage your child to keep their iPad in its protective bubble case. Don't put heavy books on top of the iPad when it is in the schoolbag or on a desk.

3) Supervise use at home and please **do not** have a credit card attached to the iPad. Purchase of an iTunes card is recommended.

Why do we suggest Apple devices (iPad, iPad mini etc)?

- Apple's education app category is not available on Google Play, Android's version of the app store. This category provides students and teachers with educational apps, focusing on subject areas, literacy and numeracy skills. Similarly, Apple's iTunes gives teachers and students access to online courses from a wide variety of institutions.
- In terms of hardware, the school utilises a Mac server, which means connecting any Apple product is a simple process, whereas for Android only the latest versions (4.2 onwards) will connect to our network to enable wifi access.
- As all the college teachers use iPads, they are better equipped in terms of app recommendations and use of the device in the classroom.
- The most telling of all, Apple currently holds a 94% share in the educational tablet market, a staggering statistic that is testament to the power of these devices in the hands of both teachers and students.
- Any electronic device with Windows 8 cannot be linked to the College system.