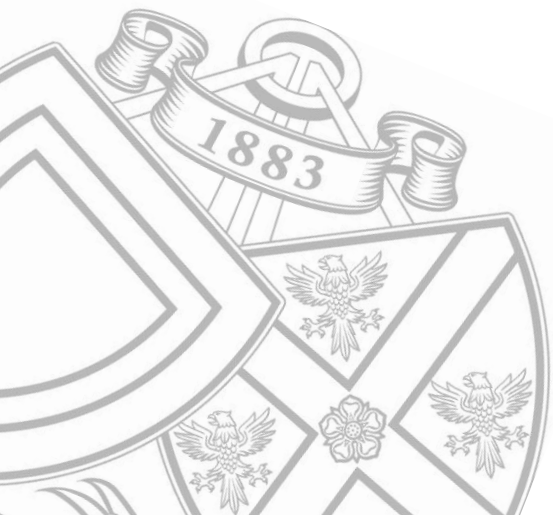# BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

Digital Strategy for Teaching and Learning:
2024 and beyond

From September 2024

Introduction

Barnard Castle School is proud to be a 1:1 device school in which each student has their own device to support their learning and develop their digital literacy, both in school and at home. We are excited to announce the next phase of our digital rollout from September 2024. We have included a detailed rationale for this below, but a brief **summary** can be found on page 8. Details of **what to do now** can be found on page 9.

School-managed devices for all

From September 2024, all students joining Year 7 and joining or continuing their BCS education in Year 10 will use a school-managed device covered by a comprehensive repair plan in return for a heavily-subsidised fee which will be added to termly fee invoices. This marks the first phase of our transition from allowing students to bring their own device to requiring all students to use school-managed devices, which we hope to have completed by September 2025. During the transition phase, there will be opt-in options for students joining other year groups (8, 9, 11, 12). These students will be permitted to bring their own device until September 2025, at which point they must move to a school-managed device (except Year 13).

The benefits of school-managed devices

By taking this approach, not only can we fully embed digital literacy throughout our curriculum confident in the knowledge that all students have access to a high quality, suitable, well-maintained device, but we can better safeguard students against the risks posed online and help students to focus on their work by removing the distractions that self-managed devices inevitably provide. Teaching staff will be able to manage and oversee students' device use when in school and we will be able to meet our statutory requirements to filter and monitor students' use of ICT even more robustly. We will also be able to help parents keep their child/ren safe at home as the filtering software will remain active even when students are accessing the internet via home WiFi or when hot-spotting via their mobile phone. By working exclusively on school-managed devices, students will also have access to all the apps they need for their studies at home as well as at school, including specialist software for Science, Art and Design, and Computer Science, which previously would only have been available to students in fixed IT suites at school.

Digital exams

A number of UK exam boards have announced that some of the external exams they offer will be assessed digitally from 2025, with increasing numbers of subjects being assessed in this manner each year until 2030. Our approach will allow us to prepare students fully for the digital exams they may take. We also already have many students who use IT as part of their examinations to support their individual needs, and we will be able to meet their needs even more comprehensively on school-managed devices by providing the appropriate software and allowing students to practice with this as their normal way of working.

Value for money

We are also confident that this approach will be exceptionally good value for families by reducing the pressure that some parents have previously felt to provide their child/ren with expensive, fashionable devices (which often do not fully meet their educational needs). The new charges will be £50/£75 per term for students in Years 7 and 10 respectively, which is considerably less than the £105 per term we have charged previously for school devices. The devices we have selected are capable, durable, and multi-function, meeting a wide variety of educational needs and providing consistency for all pupils. We know that some families may wish to purchase other devices for their children to use for gaming or other uses at home. While we acknowledge that these potentially could have also been used for school work, we hope that you support the school's decision to permit only school-managed devices at school so that we can provide a consistent, safe, and distraction-free digital environment at school.

The school device

The devices we have selected are exceptionally well-conceived for use in education. They are very robust and are designed to withstand drops, spillages, and key-prying, whist remaining, portable, and attractive to students. They can be used both as a traditional laptop and a tablet, and are both touchscreen and 'inkable' using the integrated pen, enabling students to take notes, draw diagrams, and annotate directly on their screens, which can be assessed live by their teacher increasing interactivity, engagement, and collaboration in the classroom. We know that some students occasionally misplace their digital pens, so if this happens, a normal HB pencil can be used on the screen so students have no downtime while they source a replacement pen. We will provide students with all the software they need to complete their courses and will provide docking and charging stations across the school site for when they need to work with peripherals or a larger screen (in Art or Computer Science, for example).

The specification of the 500W device for students in Years 7-9 is equivalent to a Surface Go 4, but the form factor is much more appropriate for use in school and it is much better value for money. Once students reach Year 10, they have more demanding needs, and the 13W device they will use retains all the excellent features of the 500W but with a larger screen and a much higher specification.

Maintenance and insurance

It is important that all students have a well-maintained device, free of damage, so that they can access the curriculum fully and efficiently and to ensure learning is not disrupted. Most students take excellent care of their device, but we understand that accidents occasionally happen. We are pleased that all school-leased devices are covered by a comprehensive repair plan and we guarantee zero downtime by loaning replacement devices to students if their own device needs to be sent away for repair. To keep costs down for the vast majority of students who never need to repair their device, and to encourage responsible custodianship of the devices by our students, from September 2024 a £50 compulsory excess will be added to a student's termly fee invoice for each repair they need. We will require all damage to be reported and repaired immediately to support students' learning and meet our obligations under our lease agreement.

Mobile phones and other devices

As students transition to a school managed device, we will require them not to bring any other device to school with them. **No other devices will be permitted in school from September 2025** (except in Year 13) unless permission is granted in advance to meet a specific educational need**.**

From September 2024, students in years 7-11 will not be permitted their mobile phone in school. If parents feel that their child/ren need access to mobile phones for the journey to and from school, their phone must be stored in their locker during the school day as they will not be permitted in common rooms, classrooms or around the school site. Padlocks will be provided by the school to ensure that lockers remain secure. Sixth Formers will be permitted mobile phones in school so that we can foster responsible use.

We hope that you can see that we have taken great care to evolve our digital policy to meet the changing needs of our students. We are grateful to parents for your support and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Please contact the Digital Strategy Lead, Christopher Butler using the email address (digitalstrategy@barneyschool.org.uk), if you have any questions about the digital rollout.

Device for students joining Year 7 (compulsory) or Year 8 and 9 (opt-in)

Lenovo 500W Yoga Gen 4   **£50 per term for 9 terms** (£50 excess for repairs)
*Return and upgrade after term 9 (for Year 7s),
term 6 (for Year 8s), or term 3 (for Year 9s).*

Product tour   Watch on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TtXcHfJIPY

Performance

Processor:	Intel N200
RAM:	8Gb
Storage:	128Gb
OS:	Windows 11 Pro

Features:

Pen:	Garaged, rechargeable, active pen, with pencil touch.
Cameras:	1080p FHD front-facing plus 5 megapixel world-facing
Speakers:	Dual Dolby Audio™ speakers with integrated mics
Charger:	65W USB-C charging cable

Connectivity

Ports:	1 x USB-C, 2 x USB-A. HDMI, Headphone
Wireless:	WiFi 6 and Bluetooth® 5.1

Design

Form factor:	360° Yoga 4-in-1 (laptop/tablet/tent/presentation)
Screen:	12.2" touchscreen (1920 x 1200 px), low blue light
Keyboard:	Spill-resistant (up to 360 ml) and pry-resistant
Mass:	1.29 kg
Dimensions:	18.9 mm x 287 mm x 208 mm
Robustness:	Drop resistant, US Defence MIL-SPEC, DuraSpec
Case:	Slate grey ABS (textured)

Repair Plan   Zero-downtime plan, with device covered for accidental damage and breakdown with £50 excess per claim, plus use of loan device from school (instant swap out) while device is away for repair.

Device for students joining Year 10 (compulsory)

Lenovo 13W Yoga Gen 2   **£75 per term for 12 terms** (£50 excess for repairs) *including ownership after term 12 – Y11 leavers may return the device with no charge or purchase for £450*

Product tour   Watch on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNId3Hzw_hI

Performance
Processor:	AMD Ryzen 5 7530U
RAM:	16Gb
Storage:	512Gb
OS:	Windows 11 Pro

Features:
Pen:	Garaged, rechargeable, active pen, with pencil touch.
Cameras:	1080p FHD front-facing plus 5 megapixel world-facing
Speakers:	Dual Dolby Audio™ speakers with integrated mics
Charger:	65W USB-C charging cable
Security:	Fingerprint reader

Connectivity
Ports:	2 x USB-C, 2 x USB-A. HDMI, SD card, Headphone
Wireless:	WiFi 6 and Bluetooth® 5.1

Design
Form factor:	360° Yoga 4-in-1 (laptop/tablet/tent/presentation)
Screen:	13.3" touchscreen (1920 x 1200 px), low blue light
Keyboard:	Backlit, spill-resistant (up to 360 ml)
Mass:	1.45 kg
Dimensions:	17.6 mm x 305 mm x 216.8 mm
Robustness:	Drop resistant, US Defence MIL-SPEC, Gorilla glass.
Case:	Thunder black ABS with grey aluminium lid

Repair Plan   Zero-downtime plan, with device covered for accidental damage and breakdown with £50 excess per claim, plus use of loan device from school (instant swap out) while device is away for repair.

Device for students joining Year 11 (opt-in)
intended for students continuing into Sixth Form

Lenovo 13W Yoga Gen 2	**£100 per term for 9 terms** (£50 excess for repairs)
	including ownership after term 9
	£600 will be added to the final bill for any Y11 leavers

Product tour   Watch on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNId3Hzw_hI

Performance

Processor:	AMD Ryzen 5 7530U
RAM:	16Gb
Storage:	512Gb
OS:	Windows 11 Pro

Features:

Pen:	Garaged, rechargeable, active pen, with pencil touch.
Cameras:	1080p FHD front-facing plus 5 megapixel world-facing
Speakers:	Dual Dolby Audio™ speakers with integrated mics
Charger:	65W USB-C charging cable
Security:	Fingerprint reader

Connectivity

Ports:	2 x USB-C, 2 x USB-A. HDMI, SD card, Headphone
Wireless:	WiFi 6 and Bluetooth® 5.1

Design

Form factor:	360° Yoga 4-in-1 (laptop/tablet/tent/presentation)
Screen:	13.3" touchscreen (1920 x 1200 px), low blue light
Keyboard:	Backlit, spill-resistant (up to 360 ml)
Mass:	1.45 kg
Dimensions:	18.9 mm x 287 mm x 208 mm
Robustness:	Drop resistant, US Defence MIL-SPEC, Gorilla glass.
Case:	Thunder black ABS with grey aluminium lid

Repair Plan   Zero-downtime plan, with device covered for accidental damage and breakdown with £50 excess per claim, plus use of loan device from school (instant swap out) while device is away for repair.

Device for students joining Year 12 (opt-in)

Lenovo 13W Yoga Gen 2   **£150 per term for 6 terms** (£50 excess for repairs)
including ownership after term 6

Product tour   Watch on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNId3Hzw_hI

Performance
Processor:	AMD Ryzen 5 7530U
RAM:	16Gb
Storage:	512Gb
OS:	Windows 11 Pro

Features:
Pen:	Garaged, rechargeable, active pen, with pencil touch.
Cameras:	1080p FHD front-facing plus 5 megapixel world-facing
Speakers:	Dual Dolby Audio™ speakers with integrated mics
Charger:	65W USB-C charging cable
Security:	Fingerprint reader

Connectivity
Ports:	2 x USB-C, 2 x USB-A. HDMI, SD card, Headphone
Wireless:	WiFi 6 and Bluetooth® 5.1

Design
Form factor:	360° Yoga 4-in-1 (laptop/tablet/tent/presentation)
Screen:	13.3" touchscreen (1920 x 1200 px), low blue light
Keyboard:	Backlit, spill-resistant (up to 360 ml)
Mass:	1.45 kg
Dimensions:	18.9 mm x 287 mm x 208 mm
Robustness:	Drop resistant, US Defence MIL-SPEC, Gorilla glass.
Case:	Thunder black ABS with grey aluminium lid

Repair Plan   Zero-downtime plan, with device covered for accidental damage and breakdown with £50 excess per claim, plus use of loan device from school (instant swap out) while device is away for repair.

Summary

Device use in school:

- From September 2024, all students in Years 7 and 10 will use school-managed devices.
- Students entering Years 11 and 12 can opt-in to a school-managed device and will own it once they leave BCS – this will be an excellent device for university or work.
- Students entering Years 8 and 9 can opt-in to a school-managed device or use their own device until September 2025.
- **From September 2025, only school-managed devices will be permitted in school and all students (except students in Year 13) must have one.**
- Please do not purchase other devices for school use.
- **From September 2024, mobile phones will not permitted in school for Years 7-11 and must be locked in lockers all day.**

Benefits of using school-managed devices:

- **Enhanced safety and reduced distractions:** School-managed filtering and monitoring ensures a safe digital environment and helps students focus on their studies.
- **Equipped with necessary software:** Includes specialised software for subjects like Science, Art and Design, and Computer Science, accessible both at school and at home.
- **Consistent digital environment:** Ensures all students have access to a high-quality, well-maintained device, and allows teachers to embed more demanding digital activities into the curriculum.
- **High quality and durable:** Compact, robust, and designed specifically for educational use. They can withstand drops, spillages, and key-prying.
- **Cost-effective:** Eliminates the need for expensive fashionable devices. The charges are significantly lower than previous terms.
- **Comprehensive repair plan:** Zero downtime with loan devices provided during repairs, ensuring continuous access to learning.

Device Specifications:

- **For Years 7-9:** Lenovo 500W Yoga Gen 4, a robust, versatile device designed for educational use, featuring a 360° touchscreen and integrated pen.
- **For Years 10-13:** Lenovo 13W Yoga Gen 2, a higher-spec device with a larger screen, AMD Ryzen 5 processor, more memory and storage, and suitable for more demanding educational needs. This is an excellent device to take to University, further study, or work after BCS.

Maintenance and repair policy:

- **Comprehensive repair plan:** Included with school-managed devices, ensuring zero downtime with immediate loan devices available.
- **Immediate reporting and repair:** All damage must be reported and repaired immediately to support continuous learning.
- **Cost Efficiency:** A small compulsory excess fee (£50) for each repair to reduce overall lease costs and encourage responsible use.
- **Technical Support:** Provided by the school's IT support team, ensuring quick and efficient resolution of any technical issues.
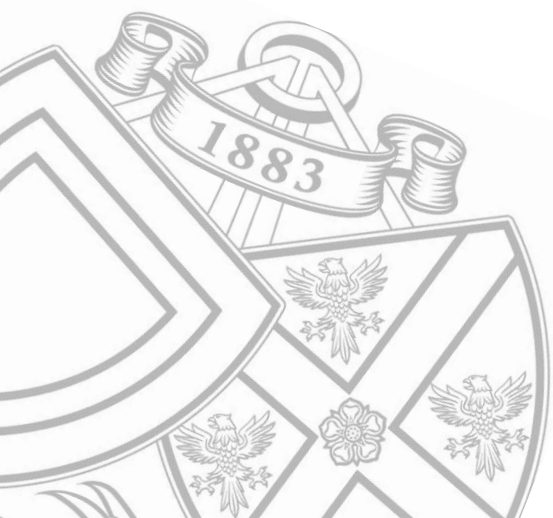
What should I do now?

We will provide devices for **all students** in **Years 7 and 10** at the start of term in September; the charges listed above will automatically be added to termly fee invoices as a mandatory charge. If your child leaves BCS during their lease term they may return their device for no fee or you may purchase it. **By Friday 5ᵗʰ July 2024**, please **complete this online form** (https://forms.office.com/e/1ULE72UpVLto) to acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions. The device will be ready for collection at the start of term in September.

If your child is joining **another year group** (8, 9, 11,12, 13) and you wish to opt-in to a school lease, please **complete this online form** (https://forms.office.com/e/1ULE72UpVLto) **by Friday 5ᵗʰ July 2024** to request a device and accept the terms and conditions. The device will be ready for collection at the start of term in September.

- If students entering **Year 8** wish to opt in, they will join a 2-year plan at £50 per term and will return and upgrade their device as they enter Year 10.

- If students entering **Year 9** wish to opt in, they will join a 1-year plan at £50 per term and will return and upgrade their device as they enter Year 10.

- If students entering **Year 11** wish to opt in, they will join a 3-year plan at £100 per term for 9 terms and will own their device at the end. This plan is intended for students who will continue into Sixth Form. If your child opts in for this plan and leaves BCS after Year 11, a compulsory charge of £600 will be added to the final bill and the student will own the device.

- If students entering **Year 12** wish to opt in, they will join a 2-year plan at £150 per term for 6 terms and will own their device at the end.

- If your child is joining in **Year 13**, you will be contacted to discuss your options.

Alternatively, should you prefer your child in Years 8, 9, 11, 12, or 13 to bring and use their existing device, they must ensure it meets our minimum specification (see below) and they should bring it to school with them on the first day of term. **This will only be acceptable for the academic year 2024-2025, after which all students (except Year 13) will be using school-managed devices.**

Please contact the Digital Strategy Lead, Christopher Butler using the email address (digitalstrategy@barneyschool.org.uk), if you have any questions about the digital rollout, or the IT Department directly ([ictsupport@barneyschool.org.uk)](mailto:ictsupport@barneyschool.org.uk) should you have any IT technical queries about devices.

Minimum specification for 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) devices for students joining Years 8-9 and Years 11- 13 in September 2024

Performance
Processor:	Intel i3 or AMD Ryzen 5 or better
RAM:	8Gb or higher
Storage:	128Gb or higher
OS:	Windows 10/11

Features:
Pen:	Essential
Keyboard:	Essential
Cameras:	Front-facing plus world-facing
Charger:	USB-C preferred (to match charging stations in school)

Connectivity
Wireless:	WiFi 5 or above

Insurance   All self-owned devices should be fully insured against all risks and well-maintained. Damaged and poorly maintained devices are disruptive to classroom learning.

Unfortunately, the School IT support department will be unable to provide ongoing technical support for any BYOD.

We do not recommend purchasing a new device for school at this time, since all students (except Year 13) will be required to use a school-managed device by September 2025.