‘If we teach today the way we were taught yesterday we aren’t preparing students for today or tomorrow.’
Fred Deutsch

All Saints’ College, Bathurst has recently received an audit report on its IT infrastructure and strategies. This report was conducted by the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) of NSW in conjunction with Combined Management Consultants. As a result of this report and its recommendations, All Saints’ has decided to modify its information technology platform operating in the Senior School to enrich the classroom experience for all students in Years 7-12 from 2017.

The platform involves a departure from the iPad programme towards a Bring Your Own Designated Device (BYODD) programme and further utilisation of the Edumate School Management System.

This initiative will enrich the classroom experience and offer greater potential for authentic learning experiences in all subjects. Through the programme, students will be able to access Edumate, our new School Management System, as well as other applications as they become available which will offer real time access to class resources, assignments, homework, discussions, marks and teacher feedback.

It is an exciting time as we move toward a new model of personal learning devices. Our teachers, with support from the IT and e-Learning Team, are eagerly exploring the possibilities that BYODD and our new online tools can offer to engage and extend students.

This document will assist students and parents in planning for the Bring Your Own Designated Device (BYODD) Program. It includes an overview of the program and a purchasing guide, which outlines minimum requirements and functionality.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the college via it@saints.nsw.edu.au
Dear Parents,

All Saints’ College is pleased to announce an exciting modification of its information technology platform that will be implemented at the College for students in the Senior School. The changes will take effect for all New Year 7 students in 2017. Existing Senior School students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be allowed to continue to use their iPads in 2017. However, we expect that all Senior School students from Year 7 through to Year 12 will have made the change to the new BYODD platform before the commencement of the 2018 school year.

The modified strategy and concept involves a Bring Your Own Designated Device (BYODD) programme and utilises the Edumate School Management System, as well as other applications as they become available.

Under the BYODD programme, students in Years 7-12 will be required to bring their own laptop for use in all classes as an aid to their learning. This means students will be required to bring personally-owned technology devices to school, rather than the school providing the technology. Using their devices, students will be able to access the School Management System, which offers real time access to class resources, assignments, discussions, marks and teacher feedback for each of their subjects. This decision is integral to the College’s philosophy of maximising the teaching and learning experience by taking advantage of relevant technology.

Studies on BYODD programmes have shown that students are more engaged and motivated to complete tasks using technology. We anticipate the programme will not only provide students with access to expanded global resources and content, but allow students to take ownership of their learning by providing them with a range of options to suit their learning style.

It has been shown the benefits of a BYODD programme include:

- Increased digital literacy
- Greater student engagement
- Improved problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Increased comprehension of new technologies and applications

The recent report from the AIS also affirmed our belief that the use of laptops in the Senior School will lead to increased productivity, efficiency and organisation for students in their learning.

Students’ use of technology and communication devices has become normalised to the extent that many already have, and are extremely comfortable using, multiple devices available to them at home and on the move. The expansion of the College’s information technology offering to encompass BYODD and Edumate will build on the natural affinity today’s students enjoy with technology. Additionally, the College environment should replicate the post-secondary experience with technology and lead to a smoother transition to further study or the workplace.
We understand there are significant challenges, as well as opportunities, in implementing a programme of this type and we believe, through communication and collaboration, all parties involved will be able to reap the many rewards such as increased student engagement, increased long term academic performance and assisting our students become learners for life.

The designated device recommended by the College is a laptop with a screen size of at least 13 inches (33cm). The laptop should be Wi-Fi enabled, so that students can connect to the school network, and have a substantial battery life to last the full school day without re-charging. We strongly recommend you purchase Accidental Damage Insurance and install some level of anti-virus software on your child’s device.

This document is designed to inform families of the initiative, the rationale behind it and answer many of the questions that may arise. We will continue our research and assessment of case-studies as we work to provide the necessary professional development to staff and appropriate recommendations to families.

Should you have any further questions please contact the College via it@saints.nsw.edu.au.
I trust you share the College’s enthusiasm of this strategy.

Kind Regards,

Steven O’Connor
Head of College