



Device For Learning Policy

6th Form New Entrants 2021



What is our digital learning philosophy?

At Shrewsbury we want to make sure that our students have the digital skills required to thrive at school and thereafter in higher education and the world of work, just in the same way as we would want to prepare them academically, physically and emotionally. There is no doubt that being digitally literate is crucial for today's school leavers and this has only become more apparent with the way the world has had to embrace technology throughout the pandemic. At Shrewsbury our philosophy is a blended learning approach. This means that the use of technology is integrated as part of normal lessons by teachers as they see fit and is just one of a range of approaches we take to teaching and learning.

In order to facilitate this in the classroom Shrewsbury operates a 1:1 policy meaning that each student needs to have their own learning device to access resources during the school day and beyond.

What device do students need?

Having done extensive research into devices, Shrewsbury moved to a policy of recommending Microsoft Surfaces (Pro/Go) for new students joining the school in 3rd Form from 2019. We believe these are the best devices for use in the classroom setting. You will be joining a year group where this policy had not been put in place so we would not stipulate that you had to have one of these devices as long as your device meets our minimum criteria below.

However, joining Sixth Form can be a good time to invest in a new device. If you are keen to purchase a Surface Device you can purchase one through our bespoke device purchasing portal which is operated by our Microsoft partners. Details of how to access and use this portal will be sent out in the summer. You will be able to choose how you want to pay (upfront/monthly), and be able to add extended warranty and insurance as you wish. All financial transactions are with the partner directly and not with the school.

The devices will then arrive at school and be added to our management software to be pre-configured for our systems here. They will have all the necessary software installed including the full Office 365 package, they will run Windows Pro and have enhanced anti-viral protection compared to a retail version of the device. The student will have full administrator access to the device to customise it as they wish and so it will be very much their device, but will allow the school to push updates out as needed and keep the device secure on our network. The students will receive their device on their first day from their Housemaster/Housemistress as part of their initial induction, they will log in with their school details and be all set up ready to start school!

If you already have a device or want to purchase a device independently then we simply ask it to meet the following criteria.

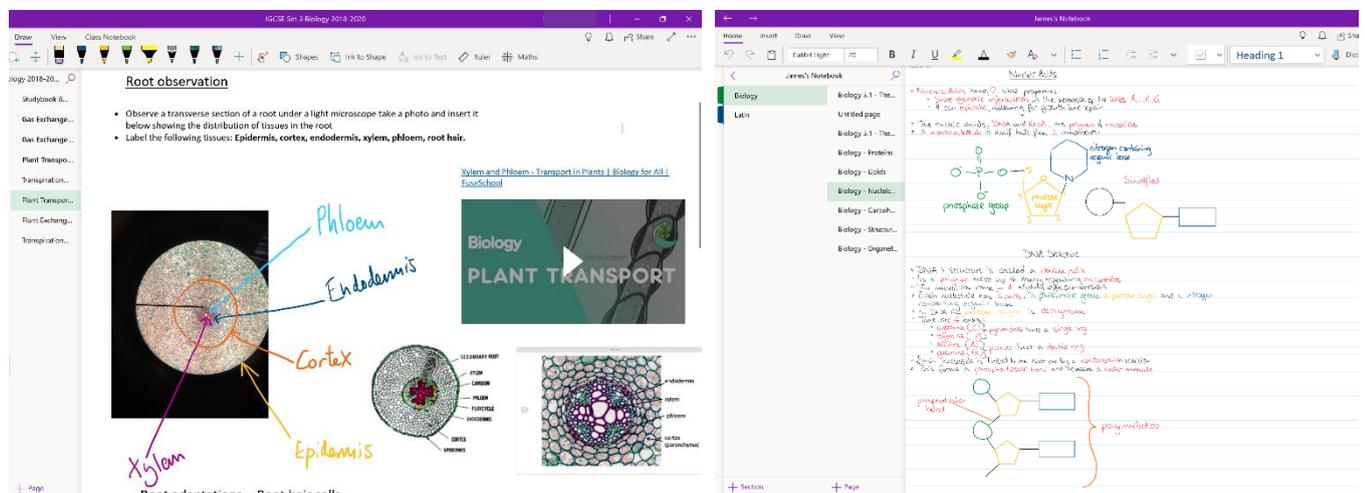
- ✓ Weight: less than 2.2Kg
- ✓ Battery life: a minimum of 7 hours
- ✓ Software/apps: must support the use of full Microsoft Office 365 (therefore Chromebooks not sufficient)
- ✓ A physical Screen size: No bigger than 16" no smaller than 10.5"
- ✓ Keyboard: On-screen keyboards are not sufficient. The device must have a physical keyboard that is either permanent or can be attached.
- ✓ Recommended 8GB of RAM and minimum 128GB HD
- ✓ Not essential but recommended: a digital stylus for writing on your device.

What will students be using their device for?

Every student will use Microsoft Teams for digital access to their classes and other groups they are associated with in the school. All Top Schools (homework) are set on Microsoft Teams as assignments. Students will take their devices with them in their school bag every day so that they have them available for when the teachers choose to use them in lessons.

Students will use our virtual learning environment to access all their daily information and they will also have access to a vast range of resources on this system uploaded by their teachers to help support their independent learning. The school library and futures department also can be contacted and share superb resources on this platform.

There is no doubt that during the recent periods of school closure the teachers have developed innovative and effective ways of using technology to further learning. Many of these will be integrated into their normal ways of teaching from now on. One example of this is the widespread use of OneNote. This is a complete system for note taking, distributing work, completing work, filing and feedback. This is one specific area where the use of a stylus on a digital device is invaluable as it allows students to draw, sketch, annotate as well as type. Students quickly see the benefits of being able to store hand-written and typed work in one place. The teacher is able to mark the Top Schools in the notebook with their device and leave feedback in situ.



Some examples of work completed by Shrewsbury School students on OneNote

Additional considerations

For any device you bring to school it is worth considering accidental damage protection. It may be protected on your Household insurance policy but please check this. While the main school insurance does not cover students' personal belongings, parents can elect to purchase Marsh's students' personal effects insurance via the school, or alternatively from other insurance providers. A protective case would be a sensible additional purchase. If you choose to buy a Surface through our portal you can add an extended warranty/insurance as required and the device comes with a rugged case.

We have an excellent IT support team who are willing to help students who are having issues with their device. However, they cannot carry out hardware repairs. This would need to be organised via your own means or through your insurance. We do have a small supply of spare Microsoft Surface devices and styluses in the IT Support Office that can be loaned to students if they are waiting for their own device to be repaired.

Windows 10 devices will come with free antivirus software when the device is purchased. **The School will supply Office 365 software free of charge for both Windows and Apple devices.**

The Acceptable Usage Policy

The School takes cyber safety seriously. All students sign our ICT Acceptable Use Policy annually and receive regular reminders of IT responsibilities, ethics and digital citizenship. We run enterprise-grade internet filtering to minimise inappropriate use and protect the school network. Students are therefore monitored when they connect to our wireless network.

Henry Exham – Head of Digital Learning - hsme@shrewsbury.org.uk

February 2021