

School Managed Chromebooks: Requirement from Year 5 - Year 8

Dear Parents,

We believe that easy access to 21st century learning experiences, which include building digital citizenship and digital literacy, allows students to further develop their creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication. Education technology is an extremely valuable part of students' learning experiences and we therefore now require all students from Year 5 to Year 8 to have their own Chromebook, which they will continue to use into the Senior School.

While we note that some parents would prefer their child to bring a different personal device (e.g. tablet, laptop, iPad, etc.), this option would not only be more complex to manage from a technical safety perspective, but would add undesirable complexity for the classroom experience. Whilst technology supports teachers' approaches to personalise teaching during lessons, it's extremely important that they are able to deliver accessible and equitable learning experiences for each student in their lesson, which cannot always be guaranteed with varying devices, models, and operating systems.

The School continues to make extensive use of the Google Workspace For Education applications both in class and for prep work, and the tight integration between Chromebooks and these products, provides the students and teachers with a stable digital learning and teaching environment with seamless access to key school IT systems and digital learning resources.

As part of this requirement the School is building on the successful School Managed Chromebook Scheme, which began in 2021 for the current Year 8 students.

Our bundle is £582 and includes:

Lenovo 500e Gen3 Chromebook device (Auto Update Expiry 2029), Chrome License, Spare Lenovo Charger, Configuration, 1 set of iClever HS19 Kids Headphones, Neoprene Sleeve, Lenovo 3 year Warranty and Insurance. Within this, the device will be repaired as many times as needed with genuine Lenovo parts by certified technicians. If the unit cannot be repaired it will be replaced with an equivalent model once. A copy of the 3 years extended warranty is available on request by emailing prepltsec@felsted.org if you would like to read it.

However, you are of course also free to purchase your own device and our recommendations for what to look for are given below. The only additional cost will be a one off charge of £33 for the Google Chrome Management license which will be added to your summer bill. (Please note that this license is specific to the device, so if your chromebook is replaced at anytime you will need a new license, unless you purchase an identical model.)

Minimum Chromebook Specifications:

- 4G of RAM minimum
- Ideally, quad core processor (4 threads) or better
- 32G of local storage
- USB-C charger connection
- 11" screen

Other requirements:

- In-ear headphones
- Extra charger

Other key points to consider:

- Check the 'Auto Update Expiry' (UAE) date for the device and model you are thinking of buying. Operating Systems and security updates from Google will be applied until then. You can look this up by manufacturer and model on the following page: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366>
 - beware of cheap devices they may not have long left
 - if you think your child will look after the device carefully, a device with a UAE of Summer 2029 would see them through to the end of Year 11.
- Multi point or stylus enabled touchscreen
- Buying a 3 year warranty and accidental damage insurance on the device, as the responsibility for repairs and insurance is with the owner of the device.
- Look for a toughened case (sometimes referred to as 'school grade') with keys that will not pull off easily
- A protective case/sleeve

You do not need to buy any specialist software as each student is provided with a Google Workspace for Education account by Felsted School.

Using Chromebooks at school and for any school work

We will provide storage space for these devices in school, however, any damage or loss of device will be the pupil's responsibility.

Whilst the School can carry out small fixes in the case of an emergency, we expect the student devices to:

- be clearly named in permanent marker or permanent labels for identification
- be charged and ready to use in school each day, but then returned home for the weekend and/or exehats/holidays, and returned back to school at the start of the week.
- be upgraded regularly in terms of operating system software and security releases

- be password protected
- be insured under a personal/household insurance scheme in case of damage or loss.

The IT department will be ready to connect the Chromebooks to the school system during the first week of the Autumn term. The IT department will connect one device per pupil to the School network.

The individual subject teachers will make clear when and how these devices are to be used in lessons. The expectation is that students will abide by the School rules, the Pupils' Computer / Device Usage Agreement and the [Online Safety and ICT Acceptable Use Policy](#) whenever using school systems. We recommend that parents are familiar with the policy and encourage their child to comply both at home and at school.

If you would like to purchase the Chromebook device via Felsted School **please kindly complete this Google Form by 4:00pm, on Monday 5th June 2023**, to advise us of your selection, and complete your payment (via the Flywire link in the form) if that is the option you choose.

Should you have any technical queries, please email our Head of IT, Mr Steve Rands (satr@felsted.org) to discuss the matter further.

Ms G Paine
Head of Cloisters

Mr M C Stringer
Head of Courtauld