Student computer requirements at Cairns school of distance education

Students can purchase either a desktop or laptop computer. But preferably students have a laptop that meets the below hardware and software specification.

Students are encouraged to purchase a Windows based laptop but an Apple Mac is also supported.

Computer specification requirements (Windows) Desktop, All-in-One, Laptop

☑ Windows 10 64bit Operating system as a Min however you can purchase Windows 11. Note there is limited support provided on how to use the device.

☑ Intel Core i5 Core processor or AMD Ryzen equivalent (minimum requirement 1.5 Mhz Intel 4000 or GeForce 9000 graphics card 250GB Solid state hard drive (SSD)

☑ 8GB RAM

☑ DVD or USB A and C connection. External DVD?

☑ Inkable touch screen and pen (Desirable)

☑ Integrated webcam on all laptops. Typically used for Microsoft Teams.

☑ External webcam for desktop devices. (eg. Logitech C505 Webcam) 1080DPI resolution for Video.
Note! * External webcam allows students to position the camera angle without disrupting the screen.

☑ USB Headset (headphones and microphone). The price can range from $40 to $150 (eg. Logitech H390 or H540)
Note! * Surround Sound Gaming Headsets are not compatible and cannot be guaranteed to work*
Optional! Noise cancelling feature provides clear communication.

☑ Wireless Bluetooth headsets can also be used with laptops.

Student loan scheme? Information TBA

Student Laptop or Tablet:

Category	Good	Better	Best
Use Cases	Primary and junior secondary students (Microsoft Office, online learning and web browsing)	Suitable for secondary and senior secondary students (excluding subjects where video and 3D modelling is required)	Suitable for high end media creation (creating 3D modelling, Video, autoCAD)
Form Factor	Laptop	Laptop or Tablet	
Processor Minimum	Intel Core i3 AMD Ryzen 3 Apple M Series	Intel Core i5 AMD Ryzen 5 Apple M Series	Intel Core i7 AMD Ryzen 7 Apple M Series or Apple M Pro Series
Memory Minimum (RAM)	8GB	8GB	16GB
Disk Minimum Solid State Drive only (SSD)	250GB+	250GB to 512GB	250GB to 512GB
Display	10 -14" Screen, consider touch functionality	12 -15" Touch Screen – Inkable for those who require to write to the computer with a pen	
Warranty	4 Years (preferred) 3 Years (if unavoidable)		
Lifespan	3-4 Years (4 preferred and more cost effective, should match warranty period)		

*The specifications above are a guide only. If you have a specialised need or use case, please consult with your school teacher. Refer to OC Holder before purchasing.

Accessories

To get the most out of your new laptop or tablet computer/s, you may wish to consider accessories that will improve the usability or overcome their form factor limitations.

External/Additional Monitor

- 24" to 34" screen size is ideal (one large ultrawide monitor may replace two smaller monitors and is great for spreadsheets)

- If you're implementing a dual monitor setup, try to get a matching pair (same brand and resolution) for less eye strain

- Ensure that the resolution is at least 1920 x 1080

Other Considerations for student devices

- Devices need to be assessed for robustness and transportability e.g. shock proof, handle, screen structure

- Whether you intend to use Charging stations i.e. ability to securely store in suitable in accessible/lockable stations

- Support processes including access to tech, teacher training and software partnerships

- Blended learning requirements

- Increasing use of Augmented Reality (AR) / Virtual Reality (VR) and game based learning in classrooms

- Student engagement with devices e.g. colour choices, aesthetic

- Consider the full details when purchasing Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) - some have a low purchase price but a high excess (cost to initiate claim), while others might limit the number of claims per period (i.e. 1 claim per year)

Kind Regards,

IT support team