

23 June 2011

Dear Parent / Guardian

Year 9 One to One Computer Devices at Orewa College for 2012

Why Orewa College is going Digital To provide the best possible education with the best possible tools!

Orewa College is grasping the opportunity to step into the 21st Century with the latest technology and is leading the way for schools in our community and for state schools in New Zealand.

Three technologies have become available to Orewa College and the wider community:

1. High speed fibre connection to the Internet;
2. Reliable high speed wireless technology covering the school site;

We can provide the first two technologies. We need your help and support for number three:

3. Affordable portable computing devices such as Netbooks and Laptops, iPads and the smaller devices such as iTouch and Smart phones.

We can only do this for your students with your support. We need this to be a partnership between the college, your student and you as a parent.

In 2012, Orewa College will require your Year 9 student to have a one to one computer device with them in the classroom.

What is a one to one computing device?

It is a personal laptop, Netbook, Android Tablet type computer, or an iPad.

Why is this a vital part of your son or daughter's education into the 21st century?

1. Learning:

Since the year 2000, this trend has been evident in many school systems around the world.

Learning has been shown to improve with access to a one to one computing device. Time spent on the process of research, writing things down and pulling all the information together is saved, and more time can now be spent with the teacher, guiding the student through the process of making sense of that information and analysing it.

2. Resources:

On its own, Orewa College cannot continue to expand its computer network to allow one to one access for students. The New Zealand Curriculum document and also the Ministry of Education Digital Horizons document looks at students for the 21st century and the world they are going to live in. Very few state secondary schools will be able to keep up with this demand.



Orewa College Parent Requirement from 2012

Orewa College students, who will be Year 9 in 2012, will be required to bring a one to one computing device to school.

Our preference for that device will be the Apple iPad 2. Attached is a document which outlines how you may purchase such a device, and the FAQs that have arisen over the last 4-6 weeks from parents and teachers alike as this discussion has progressed. Our web site contains further information: www.orewa.school.nz

As this is a significant change in the requirement for Year 9 students, there will be a series of meetings for parents:

5 July	6.30-7.30pm	8DO, 8DLE
	7.45-8.45pm	8JA, 8HWL
6 July	6.30-7.30pm	8PG, 8SI
	7.45-8.45pm	8SD, 8SP, 8WIG

I will attend those meetings, alongside teaching and senior staff members, where we will have iPads available for you to pick up, look at, try, assess and experiment with.

Probably one of the most common questions that we have had to date is; "My son or daughter already has a Laptop or Netbook, do I now have to go out and purchase an iPad 2?" The answer to this is no. If your son or daughter already has a Netbook, iPad, Tablet device or Laptop, they are free to bring those to school. We have allowed students to bring those to school for the last two years. The difference will be that from 2012, staff in the Year 9 classes will be teaching with the expectation that students will have one to one access.

The mode of delivery will be through the school's Ultranet which is our current learning management system. The predominant mode of learning and submitting work will be using a one to one computing device.

This is an exciting phase in educational delivery and we are pleased to be able to offer this to your student. The school is very positive about this transition and we are confident that parents and caregivers will embrace this educational opportunity.

Yours sincerely



K Shevland
Principal