

# Westfield Academy Chromebook Scheme

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How much is a Chromebook going to cost?

We will provide a **Student Chromebook Package** comprising of:

- An Asus 204MA Chromebook, with three year manufacturer's warranty
- Google Education Licence,
- Full accidental damage and theft insurance for three years;
- A robust case

The outright cost of the Chromebook package is £248. There are a number of purchase options which are outlined in our Chromebook scheme 2020 Leaflet.

No student will be disadvantaged if parents are unable to purchase a Chromebook, and the Academy will have a stock of Chromebooks that will be available for students to use, however it will remain the property of the Academy and must be returned to the Academy when necessary - for example when a student leaves.

### What are the advantages of buying a Chromebook?

If you purchase a Chromebook through one of the purchase options then the advantages are:

- The Chromebook is the property of the student/parent, therefore there are no restrictions on the use of the Chromebook outside of the Academy. When members of the family set up their own personal Google accounts on the device, these accounts cannot be monitored or restricted by Westfield Academy and such use is entirely the responsibility of the user
- This will enable your family to use the Chromebook as they wish - such as for Social Media, games, streaming of music and videos
- The Chromebook is fully insured against, loss, theft and accidental damage

### Could we buy a cheaper Chromebook ourselves and 'opt out' of the Academy scheme?

We will be bulk purchasing a Chromebook that we believe will stand up well to use in an Academy setting, as well as supplying a case and three years' insurance. We will be passing on all savings we make so that we can bring a package price to you that genuinely represents value for money.

### How will I make payments?

The **Student Chromebook Package** can be paid for outright, in three instalments or you can opt into a 3 year payment scheme which will be by standing order.

Payments to the academy can be made by card or by cheque

### Who owns the Chromebook?

If you purchase it outright or in three instalments before the start of term it belongs to you immediately.

Legally, if you are purchasing over 3 years, the academy owns the Chromebook until the final payment is made, at which point ownership transfers to you.

If the Academy lends a Chromebook - then it remains the property of the academy.

### What if I don't think I can afford it?

For the transformation in learning that we wish to see take place it is important that all year 7 students have access to a Chromebook in the lesson. If you are unable to purchase a Chromebook select Option 3 on the Chromebook form.

## **When will the Chromebooks be issued to students?**

We will issue the Chromebooks to students at the start of term in September 2020.

## **What if my child already has a Chromebook?**

With the agreement of their parents, students who own a Chromebook already will be able to bring it into the Academy and have it connected to the Academy network as long as it has a battery life of at least 6 hours and will boot up in less than 30 seconds. Parents need to be aware that we will not be able to offer insurance or technical support for devices purchased outside our scheme.

## **My child already has a laptop, can they use that instead?**

The only devices we will use are Chromebooks - tablets and laptops will not be acceptable.

Why is this?

- Chromebooks are ideal for classroom situations.
- Chromebooks run for at least 6 hours from a single charge
- Chromebooks boot up in 8 seconds or less
- The only software used in all our lessons and for homework will be Google software
- Chromebooks have a keypad
- Chromebooks automatically update google chrome browser which is compatible with our wireless network

It is vital that we make sure that the computers in the classrooms of teachers do not take up important teaching and learning time because technical difficulties need to be resolved. Teachers are not technicians and it is the simplicity of the Chromebook, its long battery life and the very rapid boot up time that have brought us to this choice of device. The computers then become 'invisible' in the classroom and the teaching and learning remains the focus throughout.

## **My child already has an iPad/Android Tablet can they use that instead?**

No. These are not fully compatible with the Google Apps and Chrome add-ons that we will be using for teaching and learning.

## **Can Parents have different models of Chromebook to choose from?**

In order to achieve the economies of scale with a manufacturer which make this scheme most affordable, we can't offer a more diverse choice, as the numbers taking up each option would be too low.

## **Is the battery good enough? How will charging work?**

Chromebooks have a battery life of 6 plus hours. This varies depending on what the Chromebook is being used for (e.g. web browsing is very different to using Youtube). As long as students charge the Chromebook overnight, it will last all day.

## **Can my child put their own content onto the Chromebook (music, video, apps)?**

Where you have bought the Chromebook your child should treat the Chromebook as their own. A big part of the success of this scheme will rely on students valuing the Chromebook as part of their wider life and therefore taking care of it, charging it and bringing it into the Academy every day. Storage space is provided via the Google domain that the Academy provides and will be unlimited so students can store unlimited movies, music etc. and still have ample space for Academy-provided apps and content.

## **How do I connect the Chromebook to the internet in my house?**

Chromebooks use wireless to connect to a network, so you will need WiFi at home to use the Chromebook on the internet there. If you have WiFi, your network security key can be added to the Chromebook before logon. If you don't have WiFi at home, the Chromebook will still work for many things (most apps, reading eBooks, etc.) but things like email and web browsing won't be accessible until the Chromebook is back within the Academy network.

## What happens if the Chromebook is lost, stolen or damaged?

All the Chromebooks supplied or loaned by the Academy will have a three year accidental damage and theft insurance. If a Chromebook is reported lost or stolen it is important that it is reported to the IT Support team as soon as possible. The IT Support team can track devices within the Academy and can remotely disable a Chromebook, rendering it unusable and unfit for resale.

## What happens after three years?

Providing the Chromebook has been well looked after we expect them to have a lifespan long enough to see your child through to 16. **After the three year period, the Chromebook will NOT be covered by our insurance scheme - you may wish to consider having the Chromebook covered by your home insurance. Any repairs or replacements that are needed after the three years will incur a cost.**

## What technical support will there be for students?

The Academy IT Support Service will be able to help resolve many technical issues but one of the major advantages of the Chromebook is that it rarely goes wrong. Students will be shown how to use their Chromebooks in IT lessons. We also have 'Chromebook Student leadership scheme', and our Chrome Leader Students will be trained to help others.

## How are teachers being helped to maximise the potential of Chromebooks?

We have run this scheme for several years now and teachers' expertise has been growing throughout this time through regular training events and shared professional learning. Every student already works with Google Apps, Google Classroom and associated cloud storage and our first term of Computing lessons is dedicated to teaching students how to work effectively across all subjects using Google Apps. We will be continuing to focus on the use of Chromebooks in the regular staff training that the Academy runs.

Chromebooks may not be used in every lesson. Students will still need to write effectively in exercise books, however they will enable teachers to deliver lessons differently and in a way that we believe will improve learning.

## How will the Chromebook be backed up?

The Chromebook is always backed up, our students have unlimited storage space in the Google Cloud. This is already set up and associated with their Westfield Academy email address.

## Are there any Chromebook guides available?

Yes, there's a lot of (free) guidance out there. This link is a good place to start:

<http://www.chromestory.com/chromebook-user-guide/>

We will make sure all of our students receive the teaching input to get them up and running with their new Chromebooks when they are issued and we will provide an online course they can access from home to develop their expertise. During their Computing lessons there will be some Chromebook skills development.

## How will inappropriate use of the Chromebook at Academy be dealt with?

Students and parents will be required to sign up to a 'Chromebook User Agreement' which sets out some simple rules to make things go smoothly. Where students make the wrong choices over use of the Chromebooks the Academy will implement their behaviour management policy.

## What is the Academy doing to reduce eSafety problems with the Chromebooks?

We already operate an internet and email filtering policy which we will extend to Chromebooks. This will apply when a student is logged on to the Chromebook through their Westfield Academy account. If additional accounts are set up on the Chromebook - then the filtering WILL NOT apply.

All students receive regular teaching on the importance of e-safety.

### **Will the Chromebook be monitored?**

The Academy has a very effective web filtering system and all devices attached to our network go through this web filter. The Academy will not be actively monitoring students' Chromebooks; we feel it is important that students feel that the device is 'theirs' and they are not being watched. We will be able to look at web filter logs, should an issue become apparent. When used at home parents should take the normal precautions to ensure that they monitor the student's use of the internet. Chromebooks on the scheme are fitted with anti-theft software and the device can be disabled to prevent reselling if lost or stolen.

### **What happens if my child leaves the Academy?**

If you own the Chromebook you will be able to take it with you.

If there are outstanding payments on the Chromebook you will have a choice of either to complete the payments or return the device.

Chromebooks that have been lent will have to be returned.

### **Will my child need their own Google account, if so, how will the Academy be able to put apps on the Chromebook?**

Your child's @westfieldacademy.co.uk account is in fact a Gmail account and this account will be used when they are in the Academy. The Academy will use management software to enable it, to distribute apps to any Chromebook registered with it and effectively will 'gift' the app to the device.