



Dear Parent,

Digital Learning at Kimbolton School

We are delighted to welcome you and your family to Kimbolton Senior School. As your child prepares to begin their journey with us, we would like to share some information about our approach to digital learning and fluency, and the device your child will need to support their studies.

At Kimbolton, digital technology plays an important role in enhancing teaching and learning across the curriculum. Our objective is not simply to employ technology in the classroom but to ensure that students develop digital organisation, collaboration, and the research skills required to support their academic pursuits while preparing them for the modern world.

Our digital learning approach is built around Microsoft 365. This provides students with a secure and integrated platform for communication, collaboration and organisation. Students will regularly use applications such as Teams, OneNote, OneDrive and SharePoint to access resources, submit homework assignments, collaborate with peers and respond to feedback.

Alongside subject learning, we place great emphasis on helping students develop safe and responsible digital habits. The school network uses appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to ensure that online activity remains safe and suitable for a school environment. Students are also guided in how to use technology responsibly, including respectful communication, protecting their digital identity and maintaining a healthy balance in their use of technology.

To support this approach, students are required to bring a charged personal device to school each day. Laptops are the ideal device as they offer several advantages within our learning environment:

- **Productivity:** full keyboards and larger screens support extended writing, research and project work.
- **Compatibility:** Microsoft 365 applications run more effectively on such devices.
- **Organisation:** students can easily access resources, structure their work and collaborate through shared platforms.
- **Preparation for future study and professional environments.**

Digital technology at Kimbolton is used to enhance teaching and learning rather than replace traditional approaches. Students will continue to develop strong handwritten work, discussion skills and independent study habits alongside digital learning. As such, our expectation is that students bring a device which supports both touchscreen integration and digital pen input, enabling students to combine handwritten annotation, digital note-taking and traditional keyboard work where appropriate.

To ensure full use of the school's digital learning systems, devices should meet or exceed the following recommended specifications:

- **Operating System:** Windows 11 or later: preferred for full compatibility with school systems and Microsoft 365 tools.
- **Screen size:** 11 inches or larger

- **Form factor:** Touchscreen and active stylus / pen support (for annotation, note-taking and digital ink); Compatible stylus preferable
- **Keyboard:** Physical keyboard (integrated or as an attachment)
- **Camera:** Ideally built in
- **Processor:** Intel i5 or above / AMD Ryzen 5 (or equivalent) to support multitasking and classroom software.
- **Storage:** 256GB SSD minimum for reliability and speed
- **Memory (RAM):** 8GB
- **Connectivity:** Wi-Fi 6 minimum, Bluetooth enabled
- **Battery life:** 6 hours minimum (typical classroom use to last the school day)
- **Protection:** Robust case / sleeve recommended which is clearly named.

So that students are able to make full use of the school's digital learning platforms, we recommend Windows-based devices. Alternatives such as Chromebooks and Macs do not integrate fully with the systems we use and therefore cannot maximize the learning benefits at Kimbolton.

Devices meeting the proposed specifications are widely available from retailers. Families may already own suitable devices, and these can be used provided they meet the requirements. Please note that Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Office do not need to be purchased separately. Students will receive full access to the suit via their internet browser upon receipt of their login details when they join Kimbolton. The IT Department, subject teachers, and tutors will be able to support students with accessing school systems in the build up to, and upon, the start of term.

We hope this provides useful guidance as you prepare for your child's start at Kimbolton School. If you have any questions about device suitability or digital learning at the school, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

We very much look forward to welcoming your child and supporting them as they begin this exciting stage of their education.

Yours sincerely,



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