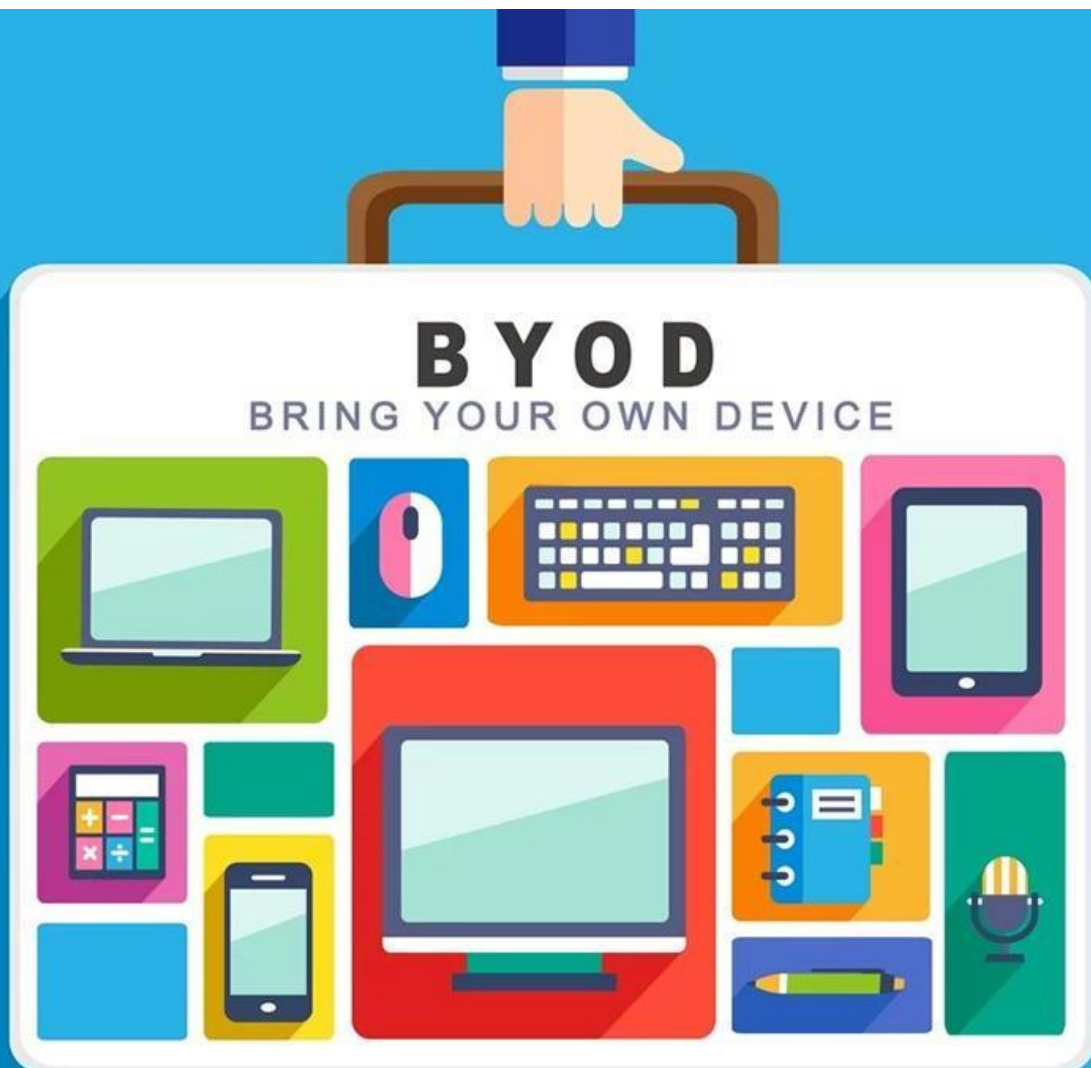




Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Chromebook Programme 2022



Ridgeway Academy



Dear Parent/Carer

From September 2022 the Alban Academies Trust will be launching a common programme across all secondary schools for students joining in year 7. The programme will require all students to have their own Chromebook.

We always seek to innovate in the classroom, ensuring students benefit from a wide variety of teaching styles and learning experiences. Our teachers are a professional and highly dedicated learning community who are committed to engaging, supporting, stretching and challenging students to achieve in all aspects of life. We will be incorporating a blended learning approach that takes traditional methods and skilfully combines them with modern evidence-informed approaches including the highly sophisticated use of technology.

This guide outlines the minimum standards that the device must meet and also provides information about ordering the school's required device (a Chromebook) via a dedicated ordering platform.

style device, whilst also providing the capability to use technology to support the more demanding aspects of our curriculum, including the completion of extended writing tasks and more complex research activities.

At the heart of all decision making within the Alban Academies Trust is inclusivity; as such we will ensure that no student is disadvantaged by this decision. Later in this guide we will outline financial support for students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals, as well as families suffering financial hardship.

We are very excited to be launching our Blended Learning programme this September and know it will have a positive impact on your child's educational experiences throughout their time at Ridgeway Academy.

Louise Jesson – Assistant Headteacher



Options for equipping your child with a suitable Chromebook

There are two options for parents/carers when deciding how to equip your child with a suitable Chromebook ready for September 2022.

Firstly, our trust wide recommendation is to purchase our custom-specification device through our reseller, Academia.

Alternatively, you can purchase a Chromebook device from a retailer of your choice, however, the device must meet the specific requirements of our custom-specification device

Purchasing our custom-built device through Academia

We have worked directly with device manufacturer, ASUS, to build a custom specification Chromebook device. This device has been built to meet the demands of an educational setting, taking account of the power and performance of key hardware but also its durability. Unlike consumer units ordinarily purchased from a high street or online store, this device has been vigorously tested for an educational setting. Tests include drop testing; input-output port durability testing; hinge open and close cycle testing and pressure testing on the lid and bottom of the device. Whilst these tests don't offer a guarantee against breakages, they do give peace of mind that these devices are built for an educational setting.

The negotiated cost also includes a manufacturer's warranty of **3 years** which **includes the battery**. This is a unique feature of the custom specification on offer.

Academia, the Alban Academies Trust's chosen reseller for this device also offer two levels of optional insurance for the device and the opportunity to enter a financial repayment scheme for both device and insurance.

Our chosen device

The custom specification device which will be sold by Academia is the ASUS CR1100. A sleeve style case will be provided with the Chromebook as part of the bundle available to purchase.

Technical Specification

Processor: Intel® Celeron® N5100 Processor

Memory: 4GB LPDDR4X on board RAM

Display: 11.6" HD (1366 x 768) 16:9 Touch Screen

Storage: 32GB eMMC

Battery: 10-13 Hours life

Interface: 2x USB Type-A ports, 2x USB Type-C ports, with display and power delivery support, 1x 3.5mm Combo Audio Jack, 1x Micro SD card reader

Additional Features: Front Facing Camera: 720p HD and World Facing Camera. Rubberised edges.

Weight: 1.42kg

How to purchase the device and costs

Academia have created a school specific portal where you can purchase the device bundle through a single payment or set up a finance agreement with a third party.

Please visit <https://ridgeway.store.academia.co.uk> to visit our school's dedicated store.

The cost of the device bundle, which includes a sleeve style case and 3-year warranty is **£326.95 (inc. VAT)**.



Through the portal you will also have the option of purchasing a 3-year insurance policy for the device. There are two levels of cover – accidental damage (AD) and accidental damage and theft (ADT). Cover is provided by CompuCover and is underwritten by AXA. Costs for this cover are:

Accidental Damage (AD) – **£89.50**

Accidental Damage and Theft (ADT) – **£114.10**

It is important that you review the policy detail available at time of purchase.

Both warranty and insurance claims are logged and handled through the Academia portal and not directly with the school or trust.



Order deadline and delivery

To allow appropriate time for manufacture and shipping, the Academia portal for placing orders will close at **9am on Friday 20th May 2022**. After this date, no further orders can be accepted, this is to guarantee delivery within the first few weeks in September. The purchased device will be delivered directly to the school in early September for distribution to your child during the first few weeks of term.

If the manufacture or estimated delivery times shorten, we will look to extend the ordering window or open a second opportunity to order. However, we strongly encourage parents/carers to place orders via the Academia portal as soon as possible.

Sourcing a different Chromebook device for your child

Whilst we encourage families to purchase the custom specification device designed by the school, you can source an alternative device for your child if you so wish.

It is important to note that it must fulfil the following minimum standards required for the device to be suitable. These are:

- Minimum screen size of 11"
- Minimum storage capacity of 32GB
- Touch screen
- Forward and rear facing camera which can capture still images and video

Protecting your child's device

It is important that your child's device is appropriately protected. If you choose to purchase a device through Academia a sleeve style case is included within the bundle. If you are sourcing a device from a retailer of your choice, it is strongly recommended that you purchase a similar sleeve or case to ensure appropriate protection.

It should be noted that the loss, damage or breakage of a personal device is **not** covered under school insurance. The school is **unable** to pay for the cost of repairs or replacements. As such, we highly recommend that devices are covered by an appropriate insurance policy. It is worth checking whether gadget insurance, which can often be added to home insurance or bank accounts, may offer cover for this device.

Students are encouraged to store their devices in lockers, particularly during lunchtimes or times when their bag is unattended.

Support and funding available

We are fully committed to removing any challenges or barriers to students accessing learning. For students who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals or have received Free School Meals at any point in the past six years, we are able to use Pupil Premium funding to support our loan device scheme. This scheme enables the school to issue a fully insured device to your child with only a small financial contribution from parents/carers.

For further information or to acquire a device through this scheme, please contact Megan Frost, Pupil Premium Coordinator by emailing megan.frost@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk.



Frequently asked questions

How will my child use a Chromebook to support their learning?

This varies from class to class, but the answer may be, 'For just about everything'. Popular G Suite tools and applications make classroom collaboration easy, and there are apps to support learning like video-making, podcasting, and coding.

Having access to a touchscreen device with a camera opens many creative possibilities in Art, Design and Technology, Music and Maths while also enabling students to film and review practical performances in Drama and PE. A device also allows interactive activity and online research: every student immediately has access to an atlas, a French/Spanish/German dictionary, the latest statistics on the economy, a flexible musical instrument, a camera and more!

Teachers also make use of Google Classroom in every lesson. It is a tool used to help organise student classwork and assign homework and projects.

For students undertaking GCSEs, BTECs and A Levels it will allow access to online learning resources at home and at school, such as e-textbooks as well as platforms like Seneca Learning and other tools to support independent revision.

What evidence is there to support 1:1 device use in schools?

We are following the [DFE national strategy](#) and using the latest [EEF research](#) in making our decision. These show a net learning gain and also an improvement in collaboration, feedback and metacognition for students with access to a 1:1 device.

We have in place a continued programme of professional development and training to support the roll out of these new devices for students, teachers and for parents based on the latest research.

My child already has a different device, can they use that instead?

Providing that it is a Chromebook and it meets the specified minimum standards, yes. If you have any questions regarding the suitability of a particular device, please send a brief email to admin@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk.

Could we buy a cheaper Chromebook and 'opt out' of the school's recommended device and purchasing portal?

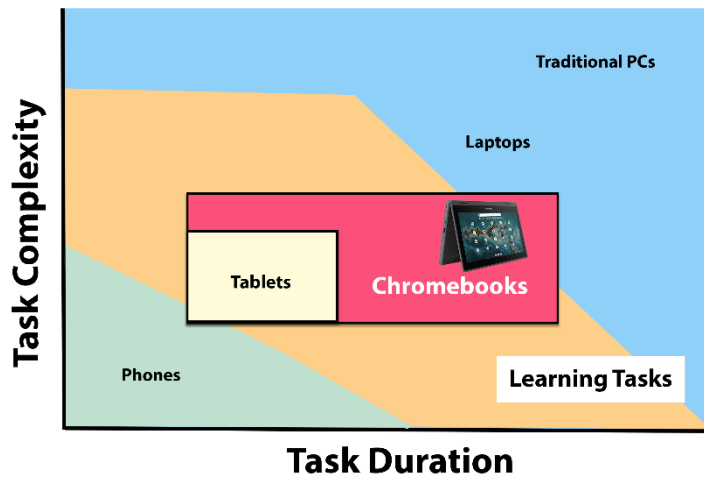
Yes. There are other Chromebooks on the retail market, but we are offering a device built with a customised specification that will be robust and will survive well in a school setting. A level of standardisation will make training and support easier for students and staff.

Why have you gone with a touchscreen - this makes it more expensive?

From our experience, we know that there are increased learning opportunities associated with being able to operate both a touchscreen tablet (that can run the wide range of Android apps) and a laptop with a keyboard. A touch interface brings significant benefits to many day-to-day learning activities, for example: painting, music making, annotating documents, using whiteboard apps, photography and video, while access to a keyboard adds an even greater range to the benefits available.

My child already has an internet connected phone - why can't they just use that?

A 'smartphone' is not a suitable learning device. Screen sizes are too small to be able to access eBooks, conduct research and write presentations or essays. It is a fallacy promoted by IT vendors that one device can satisfy every possible educational use. You wouldn't use a laptop to film in drama, likewise you probably wouldn't type an extended piece of writing on a tablet device.



- Low duration/complexity: web research, photo or video capture, blogging/tweeting, scanning QR codes, reading eBooks, quizzes, surveys etc.
- Longer duration/complexity: word processing, programming, movie editing etc.

Furthermore, we require access to the Internet to be filtered and therefore require devices with 4G/5G connections to be switched off for the safety of our students and staff throughout the school day.

Is the battery good enough? How will charging work?

Chromebooks have a battery life of over 10 hours. This varies depending on what the Chromebook is being used for but as long as students charge their Chromebook overnight, it will last all day. Students are responsible for bringing their fully charged Chromebook to school every day.

Are there any Chromebook guides available to support parents/carers and my child?

Yes, there is a lot of freely accessible guidance out there. This link is a good place to start:

<https://www.google.com/chromebook/howto/>

Additionally, in the first few weeks in September, all year 7 students will receive specialist teaching and guidance to get them up and running with their new Chromebooks as well as the school's digital platforms.

Will my child need their own Google account? If so, how will the school be able to put apps on the Chromebook?

Your child will be provided with a school email address which is a Google education account. The school will use administrative processes to enable the distribution of apps to each student account; they will be automatically installed as soon as a student logs into their device.

Did you look at Windows, Apple or Android as alternatives?

Yes, very seriously. We believe that each of these devices and options have their strengths, however, the simplicity of the Chromebook overcomes the barriers presented by alternatives to allow the focus to be on learning. Sandringham, our partnership school, has also been a Google school for over a decade and has used Google Classroom for the last 8 years. As such, with their support and collaboration, we are in a strong position to make the most of these devices.