Chromebooks for Learning Scheme

BEACON HIGH

Dear families,

I am delighted to introduce to you our new 'Chromebooks for Learning Scheme' that we are launching at Beacon High from September 2020. This scheme will see all students have the **opportunity to own a brand new Chromebook** to support their learning journey throughout their time at our school.

We will expect students to bring their devices to school every day fully charged for use in lessons.

Students and parents need to **consider the payment options** explained within this parent pack before making their choice. Every effort has been made to make the offer as affordable as possible but if the cost remains a barrier alternative arrangements will be made.

Chromebooks will provide many benefits for our students:

Access to a wealth of up to date information

Develop student's independence

Access to websites used on a daily basis at school

Opportunity to collaborate and communicate more effectively through Google apps

I hope that you will find all the information you need about our scheme within this parent pack.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

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Costs

We are able to purchase the Chromebooks that have an RRP of £225 at a greatly reduced price. We will further subsidise the costs for parents allowing us to offer the Chromebook for you to buy at a substantially discounted price of £80 (this is further reduced to £40 for students who receive pupil premium funding). This can be paid in a single one off payment or via monthly instalments. Once purchased, the Chromebook is your property and will continue to be after your child has left the school.

Alternatively, students can be loaned a Chromebook for a year by leaving a deposit of £50 that is refunded on return of the device.

Payments can be made using the School Gateway app.

Purchase options for Lenovo Chromebook 100e		
	Students who do not receive pupil premium funding	Students who receive pupil premium funding
Total cost	£80	£40
Monthly Instalments	10 monthly payments of £8	10 monthly payments of £4

What's included?

- Lenovo Chromebook 100e
- Chrome Management License
- 1 year manufacturer warranty
- Standard laptop sleeve
- G Suite for Education apps

G Suite

Repairs

Chromebooks are built for use in schools and are very robust machines. However, should a Chromebook stop working we are providing an on-site repair service for Chromebooks purchased as part of the Beacon High Chromebooks for Learning Scheme. Any device that can be fixed by our on-site technician will be done so free of charge for the duration of a student's time at the school.

If the device cannot be fixed on site then we will arrange any repairs or replacements as necessary. Chromebooks are covered by a one year manufacturer warranty and any faults to machines will be fixed free of charge. Any faults not covered by the warranty or outside the warranty period will be arranged by the school's technicians and families will need to cover the cost of these repairs or replacement. It is worth mentioning that in other schools where a similar model has been adopted, very few faults have been reported. Support with payments will be available in the form of monthly instalments.

Insurance

Beacon High will not offer to insure the devices for loss, damage or theft. You should check the cover terms of your household insurance as this may cover devices in and out of your home. Some packaged bank accounts also come with 'gadget' insurance included.

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Additional Information

Benefits of Chromebook

Chromebooks have many advantages over traditional laptops.

- Quick to boot and ready to use in 8 seconds
- Long battery life of over 10 hours
- Sturdy and built for use in schools
- Easy to use
- Secure devices that cannot get a virus
- Lightweight and portable
- eSafe and advanced filtering are compatible supporting online safety
- Works seamlessly with G Suite for Education
- Inexpensive compared to most laptops
- Lower risk of theft compared to handheld devices

Chromebooks and G Suite for Education

Beacon High already use G Suite for Education so staff and students are familiar with some of its functions. Students will be able to use:

- **Gmail** - school wide email system
- **Drive** - Store and organize assignments, documents, or class curriculum securely and access them from any device.
- **Calendar** - Share calendars or create a joint calendar with members of your class to easily keep track of schedules and deadlines.
- **Docs, Sheets and Slides** - Collaborate, share feedback, and work together with your students in real time on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
- **Google Classroom** - Create assignments, communicate with students, and send feedback all from one place.
- **Google Meet** - Connect with students virtually through secure video calls and messaging to keep learning going outside of school.

- **Forms** - Create Forms, Quizzes, and surveys to collect and analyse responses with the help of machine learning.
- **Jamboard** - Sketch and collaborate on an interactive canvas with Google's cloud-based smartboard.

Why Chromebooks?

A Chromebook looks like any other laptop but uses Google Chrome's operating system rather than Windows or MacOS. Programmes or 'apps' aren't used in the traditional sense. Most software is run through an internet browser. Chromebooks connect to any wireless internet connection once access has been granted.

Chromebooks are extremely easy to use and facilitate both independent study and online collaboration whilst also offering high levels of security and eSafety. Through the use of G Suite for Education we can further improve student engagement, and open the door to learning.

The Chromebooks with the management console ensure that all students are able to access all of the same resources and applications, wherever they are in the world and enable teachers to deliver the curriculum in the most exciting, engaging and effective way.

The Chromebook Lenovo 100e

Following consultation with other schools and IT experts we have chosen a Chromebook that is best suited to enhance our students learning experience at Beacon High. These Chromebooks are specifically designed for student use with a rugged outer casing and enhanced specification to ensure that they withstand all functional requirements.

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Features of the Lenovo 100e

Technical Specifications

Processor:
MediaTek MT8173c 2.1 GHz

Operating System:
Chrome OS

Memory:
4 GB LPDDR3

Display:
11.6" LED backlight 1366 x 768 / HD

Dimensions:
29 cm x 20.4 cm x 2.04 cm

Webcam:
Integrated

Weight:
1.11 kg

Bluetooth:
Bluetooth 4.1

Storage:
32GB

Battery Life:
Google power load test: 10 hrs

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FAQs

Do Chromebooks work offline?

Yes, lots of aspects do. You can use offline-ready apps to keep using a Chromebook when it's not connected to the Internet. Below are some examples:

- Read and write emails with Offline Gmail
- Write a note or make a list with Google Keep
- Create and edit documents, slides, or spreadsheets with Google Drive apps (Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides)
- View and RSVP to events with Google Calendar
- View and edit photos saved with the built-in photo editor
- Enjoy music or movies with the built-in media player

When you are next connected to the internet any changes will save to the cloud.

Are students expected to bring Chromebooks into school each day?

Students are expected to charge their Chromebooks overnight and bring them into school each day as they will take the place of planners and be used on a daily basis. There will be limited charging facilities at school so students must charge the device at home. A single charge lasts for 10 hours of use and generally this can last for more than one day.

Is there a chance that students will misuse Chromebooks in lessons?

Students will be taught to be responsible users of technology. While there is some chance students may go off task using their Chromebooks, skilled teachers ensure students remain on task during all types of learning activities. This is mitigated by the fact teachers will be able to see the work produced in lessons through submission via google classroom or sharing a google doc/sheet/slide.

Are there concerns around the amount of screen time?

Some lessons in school will incorporate the use of Chromebooks but many lessons will not use them at all. It is important that there is a balance in individual lessons and across a student's weekly experience and this is something we will be monitoring. There is an important distinction to be made between screen time used productively and time spent idly watching films. Students will be actively engaged with their tasks and will learn to respect and use technology in innovative ways.

Will Chromebooks reduce social interactions in lessons?

Chromebooks and G Suite are designed for collaboration and will be an additional tool to support students working together. The role of the teacher and their interactions with students are crucial and will continue to be a feature of lessons at Beacon High.

How are devices monitored and controlled in and out of school?

The Chromebook devices are all registered to the school's domain and, therefore, use of the device is managed by the school. When students are in school the use of the Chromebooks is controlled and monitored through London Grid for Learning's (LGfL) web filtering.

Can I connect the Chromebook to the internet at my house?

Chromebooks use wireless to connect to a network, so you will need WiFi at home to use the Chromebook on the Internet. 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 (for example editing Google Docs, Google Slides and Google Sheets all works offline). Free internet access is provided at all public libraries in London.

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Once a student leaves school will the Chromebook still be maintained by the school?

When a student leaves school, purchased Chromebooks will be released from Beacon High School's device management system. This is done remotely so there is no need to bring the device into school.

How durable are Chromebooks?

The Lenovo 100e Chromebook is built for use by students in school and at home. They are very durable; drop proof from 75cm (handheld or desk height) and designed with a reservoir that directs spilt liquid away from vital components such as the CPU. All Chromebooks are issued with a protective sleeve for them to be kept in.

What happens if the Chromebook is lost or stolen?

If a Chromebook is lost or stolen, it is important that it is reported to Beacon High School immediately. The school will block the device remotely and render it completely unusable.

Can I purchase more than one device?

This offer is available once per student.

How will the Chromebook be backed up?

The Chromebook is always backed up and our students have unlimited storage space in the Google Drive.

How much does it cost to charge the device?

It costs approximately 1.4 pence for a full charge. This works out to less than £2 for a full year of charge for school work.

Will carrying a Chromebook make students a target for local criminals?

Chromebooks are small and light and will not be visible when students are travelling to and from school. They also have a lower resale value when compared to most mobile phones and so are less desirable items.

We liaise closely with our Islington Safer Schools Officer and will continue to ensure that our students are educated on responsible ways to travel to and from school to minimise their chances of being the victims of crime.

Can a student bring in a device that they already own to use in school? Or purchase their own Chromebook?

Beacon High School has taken the decision to only allow students to bring Chromebook devices into school that are purchased through this scheme. The rationale for this is based on a number of factors:

- The devices are all registered on the school domain and we are therefore able to manage and monitor how the devices are used effectively.
- The school knows for certain that the devices do not have any viruses (or similar) on them that could compromise the schools ICT system as well as leave our pupils vulnerable with regards to eSafety.
- By only allowing devices to be purchased through the school we are certain that the devices are not able to bypass the school's comprehensive web filters and therefore we have confidence that all students and staff are secure with regards to what they can and can't access on the devices.

Are Chromebooks secure?

Yes. Chromebooks are designed with multiple layers of security to keep them safe from viruses and malware without any additional security software. A full 10% of boot time is dedicated to re-verifying that the device has not been tampered with, so every time you power on a Chromebook, your security is checked. Google also adhere to all data policies including GDPR and does not share data with any third parties.