Student Laptop Purchase Scheme 2025

Introduction

This year we will be offering a student rental/purchasing scheme for laptops, in partnership with 'Easy4U', following a small pilot in 2024. This provides an option to purchase a laptop via a rental scheme, with a low-cost monthly payment c£25-£45 a month over 24 months. This allows a payment similar to a mobile phone rental, where a large upfront payment does not have to be found. As the scheme is in the form of a rental, credits checks are not required. All agreements are directly between the student and Easy4U, so there is no financial liability for the college should payments not be made.

Last year we made BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) as a requirement of the A Levels provision. Many brought in an existing device and some were provided with one via the study centre, though some decided to purchase via Easy4U. The scheme is not compulsory by any means. We will support learners who cannot afford such a device, to ensure we are delivering fairer futures and making sure this is not a barrier to enrolment. The scheme is open to all curriculum areas, but we think this could be particularly useful with T Levels.

Details of the Scheme

We have selected 3 devices that students can purchase. At the core of this, will be a good all round laptop. These will be tier 1 devices, (so high quality equipment) supported with accidental damage/case etc. These have been benchmarked for value for money, but this does not mean that a cheaper solution could not be found elsewhere should the student wish to go down this route; especially if budget brands are purchased instead. Please see our webshop at: -

https://portal.easy4u.school/info/?code=N22734Y

Key Communication Points

- Whilst students will 'need' a device for the A levels and some other curriculum, the scheme itself is not compulsory in any way, or a course requirement. We can start to ask how students would anticipate being able to 'access' such a device and ask if they will need any support in doing this.   We will make other options available to students to ensure that they have a device such as: -

    a) They bring a device that they own already, possibly that they already have bought via a scheme at school.
    b) They purchase a device outright from the high street or online, leveraging student discounts via NUS/Unidays etc.
    c) They borrow a device from a lapsafe whilst onsite in lessons (this is probably not a long-term solution, but suitable if they forget their device/charger etc) or if it is being repaired/reformatted.
    d) We loan them a long-term device from the study centre.

- The scheme is there to provide an option to a student where they can afford a device, but not necessarily have the money upfront. The scheme avoids credit checks as is a rental, and is relatively low risk as includes accidental damage etc.

- Staff can also use the scheme for the purposes of leisure, hobbies or perhaps to provide their own child with a device. If a staff member requires a device for work, they will either be issued a device, use a desktop in a staff area, or use one of the lapsafe devices. We have ring fenced the laptops in the business centre at CW for staff use only, and looking to do a similar thing at BL.

- Learners across all curriculum areas should be encouraged to bring in their device if they have one. This will make more devices available via the lapsafes and study centres for other learners in need.   In the long term, we may then end up with fewer devices in lapsafes and in IT suites, but will continue to support those most in need.

- Whilst the scheme is initially aimed at A-levels and T-Levels, the scheme is available to all learners across all curriculum areas.   It is important that if students are being expected to bring their devices in everyday, then activities in the classroom must incorporate their use.

- We plan to leave the lapsafes in the IoT partially populated with devices. This will mean that the spare device bays can be used for students to charge their own devices. Note most devices these days will support universal USB-C charging.