

Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Dear Parents,

Over the past few years, we have been investing in laptops for our students as part of our Blended Learning program. This has enabled us to use many more digital resources as part of the curriculum.

To continue this development, the school has now entered into a partnership with education specialists **Class Technology Solutions Easy4u** to introduce a scheme that will enable you to rent a school-managed laptop for your child to use, both at school and at home to support their studies.

Just like our current devices, these new devices will also seamlessly integrate into the school's IT infrastructure, making access to our network instantaneous and allowing easy access to a range of educational software that can be managed centrally by the school.

Students working on these devices enjoy a much smoother learning experience, free from the inevitable technical issues that arise when a wide range of devices of different specifications, running different types of software, attempt to connect to our network simultaneously. The scheme is extremely straightforward to use and we have outlined the range of benefits below which underpins this decision:

#### Outline of the Scheme

The scheme, which is called Easy4U, offers a range of laptops across a range of leases from 24 to 60 months. You will soon be sent a flyer and a code to access an online shop to browse and select the device you would like. As a school, we receive no commission or money for creating this partnership; this is purely a relationship between you and Class Technology Solutions Ltd (CTS).

#### Scheme Overview:

- One low monthly payment covers the rental of the device, the installation of school approved software and ongoing service, support, and insurance.
- A deposit of four months' rent is payable at the start of the agreement.
- At any point you can return the device to CTS and the monthly payments stop - you are not tied into a costly finance agreement.
- As it is a rental scheme (not a lease agreement), there are no credit checks required.

*Feet on the ground. Reaching for the stars.*

- At the end of the rental period (24 / 36 / 48 / 60 months) you either:
  - give the device back to CTS and they return your deposit.
  - keep the device and CTS keeps the deposit. *If you keep the device, you will then become responsible for licensing of software installed including Microsoft Office. (This will be removed as part of the school off-boarding process).*

### Benefits

- Devices will be set up before delivery to you. This means that the devices will come pre-installed with all necessary school software, including Microsoft Office, Teams and OneDrive. This allows students instant access to our teaching and learning resources. Having immediate access to these materials at the touch of a button will enable students to manage their learning far more efficiently.
- Insurance and warranty are provided for the duration of the scheme which will ensure any damaged or failed devices can be sent off for immediate repair and a loan device provided to minimise any impact on their learning while their own device is repaired.
- Devices will be centrally managed and administered by the school. The laptop will also be perfectly usable at home, connecting to your own internet connection.
- Sign in will be seamless and connection to the school network will be automatic.
- Monitoring software to aid learning, safeguarding software and all updates will be managed by the school. This software (which will operate on and off the school network) will ensure that access to the internet is safe, secure and appropriate and will flag up any online behaviour that may pose a safeguarding concern, allowing us to intervene to protect all of our students from potential harm.
- In the classroom, the teacher will have visibility of the use of the devices to facilitate the flow of the lesson without distraction.
- A robust case will be provided to protect each laptop.

The deadline for orders to be guaranteed for delivery to your child in time for September is three weeks before the start of term.

We have included a FAQ section which may help, however if you have any queries regarding the arrangements outlined in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact the school and we will be happy to help.

*The Marist School*

## FAQ

### Does my child have to have a digital device in school?

Yes, we will be asking every student to have a digital device in school.

### My child already has a laptop, can they use this rather than the digital device scheme?

Ideally, we would prefer all students to use the devices provided through the Easy4U Digital Device Scheme, as we are more able to ensure a consistent experience and more effectively resolve any issues. These devices also meet all the key criteria, so staff can be confident that all tools and learning activities will work on the scheme devices.

### Is there any financial support available for pupils in receipt of a bursary?

No as this is a contract between you as a parent and the rental company CTS.

### Are digital devices used in all lessons?

Not necessarily. In the blended learning environment, digital devices are one of the many tools available for use in lessons. Teachers will continue to use their professional judgement to choose when the devices can be used to enhance teaching and learning based on the topic, content and learning activities. This means that devices will be used in many lessons, but not necessarily throughout the entire lesson. We continue to value the importance of handwriting, speaking, and listening, offline collaborative and practical work. In many cases, the device will be used to record the outcomes of offline work such as using photos, video or audio recordings.

### How will the device impact learning activities?

The choice of these devices means that a very wide range of learning activities can be enhanced by the device, including the use of voice recording, video, digital inking, collaborative documents, data recording and processing, immediate feedback and accessibility features.

### Does this mean that there will be no more physical textbooks and paper resources?

Physical textbooks and paper resources will continue to be used, although the use of these will be gradually reduced due to the different way resources will be shared and accessed on the device. Teachers are already using more online textbooks and resources. Students can make notes in OneNote and are also able to store digital copies of physical work, and this means all work is organised effectively and backed up to the cloud rather than the device itself, so no learning is lost.

### How will using a device help prepare my child for the world beyond school?

The ability to thrive beyond their time with us is a key component of the education we aim to provide, and technology plays an important role in terms of employability and working practices. We want the students to be able to navigate the world outside safely and

effectively and digital literacy is a key component of this. The systems and platforms used in school are used by most UK universities and businesses, and so will help prepare our pupils effectively for their next steps.

### Is the screen size suitable for use in classrooms and at home?

One of the key concerns has been the size and weight of devices. The device we have selected is both small and lightweight, which makes it easily portable and ensures it does not take up too much space on classroom desks so students can also use physical resources. We have tested this size of device with students in school who have found the size of the device appropriate.

### Can my child access inappropriate content on the device?

Whether the devices are connected to the Wi-Fi in school or at home, they are fully filtered ensuring all inappropriate content is blocked, and concerns are reported. However, we would encourage parents at home to take an interest in what your child is doing on their device and for further controls and filtering on their home networks as required, as well as setting clear boundaries and expectations on device use at home.

### Can my child charge the device at school?

The device has a good battery life, so a fully charged device will last the full school day. We would encourage students to take responsibility of charging their device at home overnight ready for the next school day.

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

Devices purchased through the Easy4U Digital Device Scheme are fully covered and you will have the option to inform the insurance company themselves or to request the school manage this process. **There is a £50 excess on each claim payable to the insurance company.**

### Will the school provide support with the device?

Yes, our onsite IT Team can support the device for any problems related to the school account or applications on the device. If necessary, they will arrange for it to be collected and sent for repair. If there is a cost due to damage, you will be informed before any works are carried out as this will incur the **£50 excess as above.**

### Can you explain the difference between rental vs purchase?

With the rental option, you are required to put down 4 times the monthly rental upfront as a deposit. At the end of the rental, you have two options:

- Return the device: receive deposit back.
- Keep the device: Easy4u retain deposit – *This means you will have paid 4x monthly rental more than if you opted for outright purchase over length of contact.*

## Can you explain what is covered in the Easy4u Package and what I will be required to pay a £50 excess for?

All devices are fully covered for accidental damage, theft and battery cover. For any hardware and component failure caused by mechanical issues, these will be fully covered. Any breakage caused by accidental damage such as, fall and water damage, is covered by a £50 excess charge.

## How do I purchase accessories to go with my device?

Once you've selected whether you would like to opt for rental or purchase, you will have a choice of accessories you may wish to purchase. Please be aware some devices may be bundled with accessories.

If you later decide that you need to acquire a new accessory, e.g. if a pen goes missing, please login to your Easy4u account (automatically created upon placing an order) and go to the accessory tab and you can then purchase any additional accessory.

## What happens if the device breaks?

If the device breaks at home, please login to your Easy4u account and select 'report an issue', this will generate a ticket. Then drop the device at the school IT office ready to be collected by one of the Easy4u team. If the device breaks in school, please ask your child to visit the IT office and drop the device off with the team and they will log the ticket on behalf of the student/you.

## Do you have the option to continue paying for the device on the rental scheme if my child leaves the School?

Yes, you will either have the option to continue paying the rental and have the Easy4u support package (excluding access to onsite loan devices) or return the device and forfeit the deposit for early cancellation. The school will also uninstall all related software, therefore it would be your responsibility to licence and install products required such as Microsoft Office.

## What happens if I want to exit the contract early?

You have the option to terminate the contract early, however you will forfeit the deposit and will need to return the device to the IT office or send directly to the Easy4u Service Centre.

## What happens to the device when it comes to the end of the rental?

If you decide to return the device, you will need to drop the device off at the IT office. Once the device is returned and checked for reasonable wear and tear, you will receive your deposit back.

## What happens if the device breaks over a holiday period?

If the device breaks over a holiday period, you can reach out to the school in the first instance and the IT team will try and help, or you are welcome to make contact with Easy4u directly: [support@easy4u.school](mailto:support@easy4u.school) or visit the Easy4u website: <https://www.easy4u.school/> and one of the team will arrange the collection of the device from your home address.

## How does my child continue with their lessons whilst their device is being fixed?

As part of the Easy4u package, you will be provided a like for like loan device whilst your device is being fixed. Once your device is ready to be collected, please visit the IT office to swap the loan device back for your own device.

## What are the benefits from purchasing with Easy4u vs from Direct Supplier?

Easy4u provides numerous benefits vs Direct Supplier:

- Onsite loan devices to ensure minimal disruption for your child.
- Theft & Battery Warranty Protection
- Accidental Damage Protection
- Pre-configuration setup of the devices to ensure your child is protected
- The device is asset tagged with your child's name

## Who owns the device?

If you opt for the outright purchase then you have full ownership of the device. If you opt for rental then Easy4u owns the device until the end of the rental period whereby transfer of ownership will take place should you wish to keep the device.