

Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton Telephone 01694 722209
Shropshire, SY6 6EX E admin@csschool.co.uk
www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Monday, 18 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The COVID-19 pandemic provided exciting opportunities for our teachers to develop new ways of delivering high quality learning for our students with technology. It is clear that learning and the way we teach should not return exactly as it was before this crisis, as we have moved a long way in terms of teaching and learning methods and want to embrace the opportunity for change. We would like to continue to build on this change in approach to enhance our curriculum offer for our school community. Using IT safely and effectively is an essential part of everyday life for our students and we are committed to equipping them with these skills for life. You will be aware that although schools are fully open to students, the government has instructed us to be ready, should there be a need, to immediately begin remote working. This could involve setting work for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or for whole Year groups if there is the need for a partial closure, as was the case recently with Years 8, 9 and 10 or a full school 'fire break' closure. Should any future fire breaks or lock down situations be required, we will be delivering high-quality remote curriculum immediately. Therefore, ensuring that students have a device that is 'school ready' with the specific software, security and ability to engage with live lessons and access the associated resources, if required, is paramount.

In short, we wish to enable students to have personal access to equipment that is school ready and that we know:

- Would function as we would need it to, with sufficient battery life and peripherals to engage in learning out of school, e.g., live-streamed lessons;
- Is strong and sturdy enough to withstand daily life;
- Is lightweight, meaning carrying it will not be a burden;
- Will be set up to automatically integrate with school systems and software by automatically logging in to their individual Office 365 account and provide unlimited cloud storage;
- Has appropriate permissions and restrictions, including anti-virus/firewalls to remain safe.

In order to provide all students with the opportunity to access such a device we have once again joined forces with Freedom Tech, a technology leasing company, who provide students with access to the latest devices in a way that is cost effective. Together we have set up the Church Stretton Chromebook Programme. By joining this programme students will have an Acer Spin 511 Chromebook exclusively for their own use at home, with 3-year extended warranty, accidental damage and theft insurance, both with £0 excess for a one-off payment of £471.48. There is no financial gain to Church Stretton School from this scheme and we have worked with a number of technology suppliers to negotiate the most favourable price. We understand that this cost may not be easily affordable which is why a leasing option will be available via monthly direct debit payments over a range of payment terms in addition to the option of outright purchase, for example 36 monthly payments of £14.79. At the end of the leasing period, you will have full ownership of the device. Further details of the programme and the payment options available can be found in the accompanying flyer and on the portal.

Orders can be placed using the portal at www.tech4learners.co.uk, you can logon by providing your email address, the username: **CSS21** and password: **S3cure02!**. The portal will be open for orders on Monday 18th October, the deadline for orders to be placed is Wednesday 10th November and the first direct debt payment will be taken on Thursday 25th November. We would expect delivery of the devices to be in December.

We have tried to address most of the questions you may have about the scheme in the attached flyer and FAQs, however, if you have any further queries, please contact me via email: daniel.bird@csschool.co.uk.

Kind regards

Mr D Bird

Assistant Headteacher

Executive Headteacher
Mrs Sarah Godden BA MEd
E head@oldburywells.com

Trust Office
c/o Oldbury Wells School
Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 5JD
T 01746 765454 F 01746 762746
E admin@oldburywells.com
Company Number: 9617166