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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Tuesday, 15 November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following our previously successful Chromebook leasing schemes, we are pleased to share with you the launch of this year's scheme. Learning and the way we teach has changed over the last few years, in particular during and following the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, we have embraced the opportunity for change to further 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.

Therefore, ensuring that students have a device that is 'school ready' with the specific software, security, and ability to engage with home learning and access the associated resources, is paramount. In short, we are offering parents and carers the opportunity to purchase 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., homework and revision tasks.
- Is strong and sturdy enough to withstand daily life.
- Will be set up to 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.

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 a Lenovo 300e Gen3 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 £448.92. There is no financial gain to Church Stretton School from this scheme and we have worked with several 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 £14.15. 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: **CSS22** and password: **S3cure02!**. The portal will be open for orders on Monday 14th November and the deadline for orders to be placed is Saturday 10th December. The first direct debt payment will be taken on Sunday 25th December. We would expect delivery of the devices to be in early January.

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

FAQs

Why Chromebooks?

- Eight second boot-up time means there is no time wasted waiting for the device to start-up.
- All work will be in one place and accessed via student's School Office365 account.
- Automatic updates, meaning there is no need to purchase and install new software on their device.
- Can be used for homework.
- Technical support at school and home through Freedom Tech.
- Research has shown these devices are very dependable and have good longevity.
- Chromebooks are increasingly being used in further education.
- It will be used as a professional tool to support home learning, but parents and students will be able to use it for their personal requirements at home, such as online shopping, social media, games, streaming of music and videos.
- Supporting students in developing technological skills for the world of work.
- They will have a school ready device, which should the need arise, will be immediately able to access live streamed lessons in the event of any future periods of lock down.

Why are you teaming up with Freedom Tech?

- Freedom Tech are Nationally recognised technology leasing company who have successfully collaborated with many Schools to provide cost effective access to learning devices.
- No upfront cost if you choose to lease.
- Scheme runs for up to 3 years, with the option to buy at the end of the lease at a minimal cost.
- Accidental damage cover, with a next day courier service should a replacement be required, we have found this service to be excellent.

What are the key features of the programme?

- The school are providing Parents with the opportunity to secure an Acer Spin 511 Chromebook, on a lease or outright payment, for their Child(ren).
- All students have a Windows account with access to Office365 and MS Teams environment, with access to cloud-based software and specific educational software, which will be easily accessed on this school ready device.
- Whilst the Chromebook is operated through the school account, activity on the Chromebook can be filtered and monitored providing a high level of e-safety.

How much will it cost?

Our experience has guided our decision on a device, warranty, and insurance. The devices we have selected come with a licence, 3-year extended warranty and 3-year theft/accidental damage insurance. The one-off upfront cost of the package is £448.92 or there are leasing options that will allow you to spread the cost by monthly direct debit, for example 36 monthly payments of £14.15. At the end of your payment plan the device then belongs to you.

What about repairs & technical support?

All devices are fully managed, and many features/apps locked down for security and e-safety. This enables us to disable machines making them useless in the event of loss/theft. The in-house ICT team will provide day to day technical support. These devices benefit from an excellent battery life, and if your child adopts the habit of charging their Chromebook, they will find that it will last all day.

I have a question that has not been answered by the above?

Please contact me by e-mail: daniel.bird@cssschool.co.uk.