**Koonung Secondary College Notebook Program**

*Updated Frequently Asked Questions*

January 2013

**Q: What kind of device will the students get?**

Students in 2013 will receive a fully insured *Acer Aspire One 753 11.6 inch Notebooks with 4GB RAM upgrade* and an 8 hour battery with a replacement battery.

**Q: Do I own the computer once I have paid for it?**

All students participating in the Notebook program will access a notebook device under a lease agreement. It is necessary for the school to operate under a lease system as only leased notebooks are able to be imaged with the DEECD software package, access the school intranet, access printing and onsite support. Any student who has paid upfront for their device ($790.00) and decides to leave the school will need to pay a $10 ‘end of lease fee’ which will cover administration costs for reimaging the device (removal of DEECD software and Koonung specific programs). At the point of leaving the school the device is owned by the student wholly. If a student makes part payment of the device over three years (3 x $320.00), the student must pay any outstanding payments before leaving the school in order to be able to retain the device. If the payments are not made, the device remains the property of Koonung.

**Q: Students in Year 10 and 11 in 2012 received ‘free lease’ notebooks, why doesn’t my child get one on a ‘free lease’ in 2013?**

The school received substantial funding through the National Secondary School Computer Fund (NSSCF) for the computers distributed to students in 2012. This funding has not been renewed for 2013 so Koonung is no longer in a position to provide the ‘free lease’ arrangement.

**Q: Why can’t I use my own laptop (Mac or PC)?**

Research has shown that the most successful laptop programs in schools are the ones where a universal school based device is used. Individually purchased laptops pose problems with network compatibility and general maintenance so it is not a viable option for our school. No access to Internet, DEECD software or school network is permitted to non-school based devices.

**Q: What happens if a student leaves their Notebook at home?**

Students will be significantly disadvantaged as there are no provisions to supply students with a notebook if they have forgotten theirs.

**Q: What happens if the battery goes flat?**

According to the terms stated in the Acceptable Use Agreement, students are required to bring their laptops to school *fully charged* every day. The battery life for the school device has been specifically chosen for its long 8 hour capacity. Students are not able to charge their device at school. Students who experience short battery life need to report to the ICT Team for diagnostic assessment.

**Q: What sort of warranty will the Notebook have?**

All devices come with a 3 year warranty. In the event of warranty covered technical faults, the school will offer an immediate loan device for temporary use until the student’s laptop is repaired. The warranty turnaround is usually 24 hours. In the event of viruses, devices will be ‘reimaged’ as a first response - students should back up all work independently, as reimaging will irretrievably delete all files. Where possible the student’s own hard drive will be fitted to the loan device so that they can continue working on their files with no issue.

**Q: What happens if there is a technical problem at home or school?**

Students will lodge their device at the ICT Centre at the next opportunity. If necessary they will be loaned a school device until the problem is solved. Most problems (such as rogue viruses) will be solved by simply re-imaging the device. Re-imaging will result in the loss of all documents. Therefore independent and regular backing up is compulsory. Alternatively the device may
be dealt with under warranty. For most problems there will be a 24 hour turn-over period.

Q: Will students have internet access whilst at school and how do they access the internet from home?

Whilst at school, students will have full wireless access to a Department filtered internet and school network. Home WiFi will be used when the student is accessing the internet at home. If problems occur with internet access at home, the home internet service provider may need to be contacted.

Q: How much time will a student spend using the Notebook?

As we are moving to eBooks in five subject areas in 2013, students will be using the notebooks daily in Maths, Science, English and Humanities. Many other subject areas use them daily, including Languages, Arts and Health. Koonung maintains that these devices are tools to be utilised as required. Programs will be used to map thinking, refine skills, collaborate and create.

Q: What applications will be used to assist learning in the classroom?

Compass will be used extensively for student and school management. Subject lesson plans, resources and learning tasks will be posted for students to access. MS OneNote will be utilised extensively as well as the MS Office suite. Department of Education resources such as FUSE and Global Teacher will also assist in delivering the school's curriculum. Online applications such as Google Maps, Video and Voice/Audacity, Animation sites, Ning sites, brainstorming sites (Bubbl.us), Presentation creation sites (Prezi), web conferencing sites (Vyew) to identify but a few, will contribute to our pool of resources. Learning domains will continue to build and adapt their curriculum to meet the changing demands of a digital world.

Q: Will I have to buy textbooks?

Textbook costs will be significantly reduced. Online versions of texts will be used where possible and these are considerably cheaper than hard copy versions.

Q: How will teachers know what students are doing on their laptops?

Teachers constantly move around the classroom and observe student learning. They will also have access to Lanschool software which enables them to use their own laptops to view, at a glance, the screens of every student in the class. Non educational games are banned across the school as is instant messaging software such as Skype. School wide management strategies will deal with students who develop patterns of misuse.

Q: Will the device come loaded with software or will students need to load it?

The device will come fully equipped with the Edustar suite which is only accessible to school based devices. Additional software may be loaded at student/parent discretion (and adhering to the Guidelines for Ethical and Responsible Use and the Acceptable Use Agreement) but this may slow down response time.

Q: Will students need to back-up their own documents and files or is back-up automatic?

Back-up is not automatically provided by the school's network. Students are advised to back-up using a method of their own choosing. This includes a USB and/or Google docs or external hard drives. Synchronisation will not be carried out due to limitations in the school network's storage capacity.

Q: Will students be able to access other school computers if they don't have a notebook computer of their own?

Students will have limited access to other school based laptop and desktop computers if they do not have their own notebook computer. A number of our computer labs are being decommissioned as a result of our move to 1:1 notebooks so computer access at school cannot be guaranteed for students without their own device.