



Please refer to the **BYOx Program Information Handbook on the College website**

<https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology>

What does my student need to bring to school each day?

- A Windows or Apple (MacOS, **not** iOS or iPadOS) operating system **laptop** that meets the minimum specifications as listed below in the Minimum specifications for Windows OR Apple (MacOS) Laptops section

NOTE: Devices with ChromeOS (Chromebooks), AndroidOS and Linux operating systems are not able to be connected to the Department of Education BYOxLink (EQNet) wireless networks, and should not be brought to school

- Other required items listed below

NOTE: laptop and all accessories must be named to allow the owner to be easily identified

NOTE: Participation in the BYOx Program is a condition of participation in Academic Achievers and Music Excellence Programs. Students in these programs are not eligible for the College BYOx Equity Program.

Why only Windows or Apple (MacOS) laptops?

- Provides a standardised teaching and learning environment for staff and students
- Ensures compatibility with College owned computers to minimise connectivity and user issues
- Students can create and use a wide range of complex digital content across all curriculum areas
- Laptops are the most suitable and cost-effective device to meet all curriculum requirements at this point in time; the minimum specifications generally provide a three-year laptop lifespan subject to individual use and care

Required MINIMUM specifications for Windows OR Apple (MacOS) Laptops:

Required Items	Windows Laptop	Apple (MacOS) Laptop NOTE: required for students choosing to enrol in the Music Excellence program
Laptop size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Minimum 11-inch screen size *maximum 14" recommended to avoid breakage and minimise weight 	
Operating System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows 11 – 64bit (recommended) *NOTES: Microsoft ends Windows 10 support 14 October 2025 S mode is not compatible – must switch out of S mode – see https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/switching-out-of-s-mode-in-windows-4f56d9be-99ec-6983-119f-031bfb28a307 <p>NOTE: Laptops with ChromeOS (Chromebooks), AndroidOS and Linux operating systems are not able to be connected to the Department of Education BYOxLink (EQNet) wireless network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *MacOS Ventura v13.0 <i>*can update to the current MacOS Sonoma or MacOS Sequoia</i> NOTE: Apple laptops are not compatible with Revit and Inventor Pro Software (Autodesk) used in Technology and Design (TAD) subjects
CPU – Processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th Gen CPU (minimum) Intel CPU i5 Processor (minimum) AMD Ryzen 5 (minimum) <p>NOTE: New laptops with "System on a Chip" (SoC), including Snapdragon X Plus, Snapdragon X Elite or other ARM 64 base CPUs are not currently compatible with and cannot be connected to the Department of Education's BYOxLink (EQNet) wireless network at this point in time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple Silicon M2 Chip (minimum) or higher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 core CPU (minimum) or higher 8 core GPU (minimum) or higher
RAM – Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8GB (minimum) or 16GB (recommended) 	
SSD - Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *256GB SSD (minimum) or *512GB SSD (recommended) <i>*Students needing to store large (e.g. audio/video/animation etc.) files should consider purchasing a minimum 512GB SSD external hard drive and move these files off the laptop onto the external storage</i> 	
GPU – Graphics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated UHD/Iris Xe Graphics (minimum) or higher AMD Radeon Integrated Graphics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *8 core GPU (minimum) or higher <i>*laptop may not come with VGA or HDMI ports – adaptor required if students need to connect to data projectors or digital televisions e.g. presentations</i>
Network – Wireless Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5GHz Dual Band AC/AX compatible wireless Wi-Fi 5 (802.11 ac) or higher <p>NOTE: laptops with only 2.4 GHz wireless connectivity will not connect to the Department of Education BYOxLink (EQNet) wireless network</p>	
Battery Life*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *6-8 hours of continual use <i>*The laptop should be shut down or set to hibernate when not in use, and only used for learning and assessment tasks at school to lower battery drain and heat generation.</i> 	
Screen/ LCD Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum HD (High Definition) 	
Ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USB Port (USB 3.0 + USB Type-C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *USB Port (USB Type-C) *May require USB C Adapter to support USB Type A Port for connectivity to some external devices – consider purchasing an external USB hub
Integrated speakers, microphone and webcam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard in laptops 	

Required Items	Windows Laptop	Apple (MacOS) Laptop <i>NOTE: required for students choosing to enrol in the Music Excellence program</i>
Headphone with microphone to suit laptop model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used for online meetings, viewing and narrating videos, recording audio, NAPLAN and other assessment etc 	
Hard protective case to suit laptop model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard protective water-resistant laptop case <i>NOTE: Rubber sleeves do not protect laptops. Warranty and/or accidental damage insurance may be voided if suitable case not used, or laptops placed directly into student bags without a case. Case must be strong enough to protect the laptop inside the student's school bag</i> 	

What if my student wants or needs to run specialist software that requires higher specifications?

Some subjects (e.g. Technology and Design; Film and Television; Visual Arts; Music; Digital Technologies) use specialized software (e.g. for computer aided design or CAD; image and video editing software; animation; immersive technology e.g. virtual and virtual reality; music composition) which requires upgraded hardware components to run efficiently on the laptop. More information about specific software used in subjects can be obtained through each subject Head of Department by emailing BYOx@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au.

If your student wants or needs to install and use higher end software programs on their BYOx laptop, it is recommended that the following hardware components be upgraded **at the time of purchase**:

Windows Laptop	Apple (MacOS) Laptop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPU - i7 or higher RAM Memory - 16GB or higher Storage - 512GB or higher or an acquire an external SSD for additional storage or backup Dedicated or discrete GPU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple Silicon M3 Chip or higher RAM Memory - 16GB or higher 8 core CPU or higher 10 core GPU or higher Storage - 512GB or higher or an purchase an external SSD for additional storage or backup <i>NOTE: Apple laptops are not compatible with Revit and Inventor Pro Software (Autodesk) used in Technology and Design (TAD) subjects</i>

Required Software:

See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/software-for-students>

Required Software	Additional Information
BYOx Link (Microsoft InTune)	Used to connect BYOx laptops to the Department's EQNet wireless network – information about and instructions for onboarding BYOx laptops to BYOx Link is emailed to parents/carers and students just prior to the start of the new school year. <i>NOTE: Students require their EQ Microsoft 365 username and password so will not be able to "onboard" BYOx laptops until this is received 1-2 days after commencing at the College.</i>
Security software suite with anti-virus and anti-malware e.g. Microsoft Defender (standard in Windows 10/11); Nortons 360, McAfee+, Avira	<i>NOTE:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cybersecurity experts do not recommend free security software, including anti-virus and malware software be used as purchased security suites provide greater protection Security software may impact on the ability to connect student BYOx laptops to the state-wide Department of Education EQNet wireless network. Students need to be able to turn off security software if required (local administrator permissions), else parents/carers (with security software username and passwords) will need to come with the student to the Student Tech Hub in the Middle Senior Library to connect the laptop (8 am recommended). Microsoft Family and Qustodio (MacOS) do not allow students to connect their BYOx laptops and should not be installed. If choosing to install, parents/carers will need to come with students to the Student Tech Hub (with software username and password) in the Library to connect the laptop
Microsoft 365, including Office suite	Free for state school students - see https://education.qld.gov.au/parents/school-information/Documents/office-365-windows-instructions.pdf <i>NOTE: Students require their EQ Microsoft 365 username and password so will not be able to download and install Microsoft software until this is received 1-2 days after commencing at the College. Information and instructions will also be emailed at the start of the new school year</i>
Internet browser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Default Windows 10/11 browser is Microsoft Edge Default Apple (MacOS) browser is Safari Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox should also be installed as alternative browsers. Different websites work better with different browsers
Adobe Creative Cloud software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6-9 students receive an allocated "named user licence" funded by the College, subject to annual budget approval processes Adobe Creative Cloud software is required by students in Visual Arts and some Digital Technologies subjects Further information will be emailed to students and parents/carers at the start of the new school year <i>NOTE: Students require their EQ Microsoft 365 username and password so will not be able to download and install Adobe Creative Cloud software until this is received 1-2 days after commencing at the College. These licences are allocated in approx. Week 2 each year.</i>

Other recommended items to be considered for purchasing:

Recommended Item	Additional Information
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Mouse	USB or wireless
Minimum 3 year warranty with next day on-site support and repair NOTE: must be arranged to be done at home – can't be repaired at school	Parents/carers should investigate Australian Consumer Law prior to purchasing additional warranty and seek clarification from vendors what repairs and/or replacements would be covered under this law. https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/consumer-rights-guarantees/warranties
Minimum 3 year Accidental Damage insurance	May be available through home contents insurer or vendor at additional cost
Adaptors and USB hubs	This will depend on the make and model of the laptop purchased, and individual student requirements. See also notes in Minimum Specifications above.
Backup up storage device	For example, USB or external hard drive - size depends on amount and size of files the individual student will need to store. See also notes in Minimum Specifications section.
Additional laptop charge cable with power pack, or power pack suitable for laptop make and model	This may be useful if living across two households or as a spare. Laptop batteries can also degrade over time, so having a power pack suitable for the laptop make and model can assist with the laptop having charge during the whole school day.

Other recommended software:

See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/software-for-students>

Software used in each subject and year level is generally given to students by teachers at the start of each school year, semester and/or unit of work. If this information is required prior to purchasing a new laptop, contact the relevant faculty Head of Department by emailing BYOx@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au.

Note that upgraded specifications may be required for some individual programs - see “**What if my student wants to run specialist software that requires higher specifications?**” above for more information.

Other software to consider (but not required) – Apple (MacOS) laptops only:

If Apple (MacOS) laptop model supports this (M1, M2 or M3 chip laptops may not), consideration could be given to purchasing a Windows 11 licence to enable the Apple laptop to also run Windows software. New M1 chip Apple (MacOS) laptops may allow Parallel software or similar to be used for dual booting. Apple vendors should be able to provide this service for a reasonable charge if dual booting capabilities are needed (most students will not require this). Contact licensing@data3.com.au to enquire about student licencing arrangements for Windows 11 operating system or purchase through a Windows reseller.

Purchasing Considerations:

A wide range of computer vendors and laptop makes and models should be investigated, and “total cost of ownership” considered. **The cheapest laptop may not be the most economical over the life of the laptop** - usually minimum 3-4 years depending on individual usage and care, and the laptop build quality and hardware. Consider included components, technical support, warranty and accidental damage arrangements. Upgraded laptop specifications generally provide better performance over a longer period of time, depending on individual usage.

The following documents at <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/bring-your-own-device-byox-program> assist with the decision-making process when comparing laptop makes and models: [Laptop Purchase Decision Making Matrix](#); [Laptop Pros, Cons and Questions](#).

The College takes no responsibility for private laptop purchases and/or finance arrangements. All issues with laptop purchases or technical issues need to be taken up with the vendor. Repairs are not able to arranged to be done by vendor technicians in the College. Deliveries must not be made to the College.

See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/bring-your-own-device-byox-program> for more detailed information, and links to vendor information and portals/online stores. The College takes no responsibility for any information or offerings provided on vendor portals.

Vendor Information, Portals and Online Stores

A number of vendor website portals/online stores links are provided as a service to parents/carers. The College takes no responsibility for any of the information provided on the vendor portals. Vendors are provided information about the College BYOx program, including minimum specifications and required items, and vendors have sole responsibility for the offerings they include on their portals. Parents/carers need to ensure that minimum specifications and requirements for the BYOx program are met when considering purchasing items through any vendor.

Education vendors have experience in supplying laptops that have been evaluated for use with school students, and may be able to provide a cost effective suitable BYOx laptop, warranty and technical support arrangements.

Information about local retailers who have contacted the College about the BYOx program are also included in the list of vendors on the website.

Many vendors have finance plans (including interest free options), hiring and/or leasing options available which allows costs to be spread over a period of time. Purchase, finance and lease agreements are private arrangements between the parent/caregiver and the vendor.

The College takes no responsibility for any BYOx laptop purchasing and/or financial arrangements.

All issues with laptop purchases or technical issues need to be taken up with the vendor, not the College. Deliveries must not be made to the College.

See <https://kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/vendor-information-and-portals-online-stores> for more detailed information, and links to vendor information and portals/online stores.

What connectivity is available?

- Student laptops connect to the EQNet wireless network through the Department of Education approved technical solution BYOx Link (Microsoft Intune) to ensure security requirements are met
- Information about how to onboard student BYOx laptops using this state-wide BYOx Link solution is sent at the start of the year, with information also available on the College website – see (<https://qedu.sharepoint.com/sites/2409/Student/MS/BYOxSupport/>) (student username and password required – usually available 2-3 days after commencing at the College)
- Once connected, students can access Department of Education online services for file access and management (Microsoft 365 OneDrive), filtered internet, and printing services on their BYOx laptop

IMPORTANT:

- The Queensland Department of Education does not allow students to use VPN (e.g. Psiphon) on a BYOx laptop. This results in student accounts being disabled due to suspected overseas log-ins.
- Students must not “hotspot” their BYOx laptop to their mobile phone or other mobile internet devices or services, and must connect their BYOx laptop to EQNET each day.
- Students should also not install browser extensions (e.g. Tetra, VPN Surf, Free VPN in Google Chrome) as this may cause issues with connecting to EQNET and EQGUEST.

Refer also to the College ICT Network Access and Usage and Mobile Phone policies on the College website. Personal (e.g. smart phone hotspot) and free Wi-Fi services may be a security risk and/or give access to inappropriate websites.

What if I can't provide a laptop due to financial hardship?

For families experiencing financial hardship, a **limited** number of College owned laptops are available for borrowing from Student Services each day on a first in basis.

Applications for participation in the College Equity Program are through the relevant sub-school Principal at the start of each year. Information and application forms are distributed at the start of Term 1 each year, and then made available on the College website.

NOTE: *Bringing a BYOx laptop each day is a **condition of participation in the Academic Achievers and Music Excellence Programs**. Students choosing to enrol in these programs are not eligible for the College Equity Program.*

What if my child has an issue with their BYOx laptop on a particular day?

A **limited** number of College owned laptops are available for daily borrowing each day on a first in basis from Student Services. Information is communicated to students and available on the College website at the start of Term 1.

Are there any BYOx Program Costs?

No. All BYOx costs (including Equity Program and daily borrowings) are included in the ICT charge in the annual College Student Resource Scheme which also contributes to connectivity infrastructure, technical support and licencing costs.

For further information contact the Head of Department, eLearning, Sue Isbell on 07 3552 7333 or email BYOx@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au