iPADS @ HILLBROOK

IN 2015, HILLBROOK WILL UTILISE iPADS AS THE PRIMARY COMPUTING DEVICE FOR YEARS 7–9. THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

HOW MUCH DO STUDENTS USE THEIR iPADS AT SCHOOL? TO WHAT EXTENT DO THEY USE HARD COPY TEXTS?

Usage will vary from subject to subject and even from topic to topic within a subject just as usage of hard copy texts has always varied.

HOW ARE THE APPS CHOSEN?

The iPads will require a number of applications (or Apps) to be used in class and at home. Online reviews are considered before choosing Apps. More significantly, Apps are trialed by staff prior to recommendation. Staff members assess the usefulness of the App with regard to the intended teaching purposes. This is not necessarily the criteria used by others who publish reviews.

ARE THE STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO USE FREE COURSE MATERIALS AS AN AID TO TEXTBOOK WORK?

As has always been the case, students are encouraged to use a variety of resources to aid their learning.

I WOULD PREFER MY CHILD TO USE A LAPTOP. CAN IT REPLACE THE iPAD OR DO THEY NEED BOTH?

After much consideration iPads have been chosen for use in Year 8, 2014 and then in Year 9, 2015. They provide access to Apps that are cost effective and not available on the more expensive MacBook Air that is currently used from Year 10. Both devices can be used but teachers will assume the iPad will be the primary classroom device in Years 8 and 9 and will need to be brought to school each day.

e-TEXT QUESTIONS

WILL TEXTBOOKS BE AVAILABLE ON STUDENTS' iPADS?

Yes, all textbooks that are available in electronic format can be downloaded either from Online@Hillbrook (our learning management system) or directly from publishers. The school is striving to have as many textbooks as possible available in this format.

WILL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO e-NOVELS?

If available, e-versions of novels for recreational reading will be available for borrowing via the iPad and can be downloaded from the Library catalogue at no charge.

CAN e-TEXTS ON THE iPAD BE DOWNLOADED TO A COMPUTER AT HOME?

No, students are licensed to have a copy of each e-text for one year. This copy must be kept on students' iPads for classroom use at all times.

SHOULD STUDENTS DOWNLOAD e-TEXTS TO MAKE HARD COPIES FOR STUDY AT HOME?

Due to copyright restrictions, students can only print 10% or one chapter (whichever is the greatest portion of the e-text).

CAN THE iPAD BE USED FOR MORE THAN e-TEXTS SO AS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE DEVICE?

Certainly. Students will use it for keeping notes and storing course work, using Apps for classwork, reading library e-Books and surfing the Internet for both school and personal use.

WHAT TEXTBOOK REPLACEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE WHEN A STUDENT FORGETS OR LOSES THEIR iPAD?

A hard copy of a textbook is available as part of text-hire arrangements and can be loaned from the class set.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

FILTERING

TO WHAT EXTENT DOES HILLBROOK MONITOR/BLOCK WHAT THE STUDENTS' ACCESS ON THEIR iPADS? WHAT ABOUT FACEBOOK?
We block websites at school based on a variety of categories and our blacklist includes sites like Facebook.

ARE THE STUDENTS DIRECTED TO SAFE WEBSITES WHILE AT SCHOOL?
Teachers often direct students to specific websites. However, most of the students' web browsing is initiated by a search engine like Google. All of the websites returned by the search engine are filtered through our proxy server to ensure they are safe.

I KNOW THAT 3G (CELLULAR) VERSIONS OF iPADS CAN BYPASS THE SCHOOL'S NETWORK FILTERING (JUST LIKE A STUDENT'S SMART PHONE). CAN THEY BE BLOCKED AT SCHOOL?
No, this is not possible. We encourage all members of the Hillbrook community to make appropriate use of their available technologies during school time to best achieve our educational goals. We do, however, discourage the use of iPads, laptops and other ICTs (e.g. iPods) for non-educational purposes while at school. Before school, during morning tea and lunch should be times for spending with peers, nurturing face-to-face relationships and being involved in school activities.

At Hillbrook we agree that it is important for people to make wise decisions, in keeping with our core beliefs of trust, respect and ethical behaviour. Where decisions are made that breach our expectations, an educative and consequential approach is taken so that better decisions are made in the future.

HOW CAN PARENTS MONITOR/FILTER THEIR CHILD'S ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AT HOME?
If this approach is used, care needs to be taken not to adversely affect access to Hillbrook resources. Full access to all edu.au and hasqld.com sites is needed.

Another option is to utilise the built in access control settings on virtually all modern Modem/ Router/Firewall devices (the little box which connects ADSL or Cable internet connections and turns it into a wired or wireless network at home). These products commonly include features that identify certain devices on home networks (such as your child's iPad or computer) and apply limits to internet access including time restrictions, download quotas, website category and keyword filtering.

A third and free option is to use a service called OpenDNS which configures the home Modem/Firewall/Router device to perform all of its DNS lookups via an online OpenDNS database. OpenDNS provide two free Parental Control solutions as well as access to premium features and support for a monthly fee. Visit **www.opendns.com** to find out more.

To really *nerd it up* there are open source tools with all the bells and whistles to manage and control internet access with incredible granularity. "Squid proxy" and "DansGuardian" filtering are two products commonly used and a quick internet search for "squid dansguardian how to" will get you on your way. One well presented and full featured package utilising these open source tools is "clearOS" (**www.clearfoundation.com**).

HOME/ PARENTS

HOW CAN PARENTS RESTRICT THE PLAYING OF DIGITAL GAMES AT HOME?
The first step would be to delete the existing game Apps from the iPad and then use the iOS Restrictions feature to disable the installation of any new Apps.

WHAT DO SECURITY SOFTWARE PRODUCTS STOP?
Many security software products are made to protect Windows (and now Mac OS X) computers from malicious attacks from the Internet (viruses, spyware, phishing, etc.) These programs are not available or installable on an iPad.

ARE STUDENTS BEING TAUGHT HOW TO MAKE THE HOME PC COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR iPADS?
Yes, students will use Alfresco service to manage the transfer and synchronisation of documents between devices and the required information can be found on the "iPad How To" by visiting **www.ipad.hillbrook.qld.edu.au**

DOES SCHOOL WORK ON iPADS NEED TO BE BACKED UP AT HOME?

Whenever you sync your iPad to iTunes it will back-up all data. Therefore, the more frequently you sync your iPad, the less chance you have of losing any recent work.

Also, students will be directed to use Alfresco and Google Drive services for document storage so that school work is continually backed up without having to connect your iPad to a computer with a cable every time.

STUDENT RESOURCES

HOW DO I SYNC THE iPAD WITH THE SCHOOL CALENDAR?
Visit www.ipad.hillbrook.qld.edu.au for links to calendar subscription resources.

CAN ONLINE@HILLBROOK/MOODLE BE ACCESSED ON THE iPAD?
Yes, and most functions behave exactly the same way as if on a laptop or desktop.

I'VE HEARD THAT THE ONLY WAY STUDENTS CAN MOVE FILES TO AND FROM THEIR iPADS IS TO EMAIL THEM AROUND. HAS HILLBROOK BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE THIS CUMBERSOME PROCESS?
Hillbrook has integrated Alfresco and Google Drive technologies to allow easy management and manipulation of files via each student's iPad. Without these technologies the process of creating a document on an iPad and then submitting that document as an assessment item via our learning management system, (**Online@Hillbrook**), would be very difficult.

Alfresco

Hillbrook has implemented a content management platform called Alfresco upon which all students will have personal storage space. Data can be easily accessed from iPad Apps using a lightweight and fast network protocol called WebDav. A free Alfresco iPad App will add another layer of management and versatility to this storage. The icing on the cake comes in the integration of the students' Alfresco storage space with **Online@Hillbrook**. Students will have single sign-on access to the storage from the **Online@Hillbrook** web interface for selection of documents for online submission simply using a web browser.

Additionally students' storage space on Alfresco can be easily accessed from any computer via a web browser. Students who use Alfresco features will have the advantage of automatic document versioning and best practice backup processes. Ultimately, this should prevent instances of a lost iPad turning into lost documents.

Google Drive

For a number of years Hillbrook students have had their school email services provided as a hosted Google Gmail. Google Docs has recently been rebranded as Google Drive and has been integrated well with all operating systems including iOS on the iPad. Google Drive is also integrated with **Online@Hillbrook** and provides additional and complementary options for cloud based storage of iPad created documents including submission of assessment to **Online@Hillbrook**. Hillbrook will also fully support Google Drive as a storage option for Hillbrook iPad use.

iCloud

Apple provides a cloud based storage and document synchronisation service, called iCloud. This means it will be easy for students to access documents created on an iPad from a Mac Laptop and vice versa. As iCloud cannot be integrated with **Online@Hillbrook** assessment and file submission from an iPad using iCloud is not possible. iCloud is neither provisioned nor manageable by Hillbrook and only basic support is available for iCloud use on an iPad.
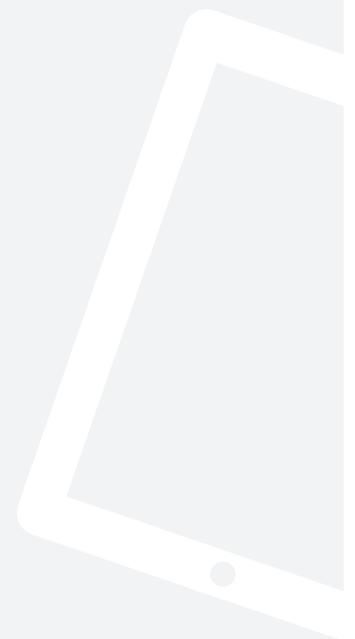
CLASS ROOMS

WILL STUDENTS DO THEIR HOMEWORK USING iPADS? THERE IS A CONCERN THAT, IF YES, THEY COULD ACCIDENTALLY LOSE/DELETE THEIR WORK.
This will depend on work set by individual teachers. Students are encouraged to keep backups of their iPads and documents using our provided Alfresco/Google Drive services and iCloud. As with any computer or laptop there is always a chance of breakdown, theft or loss so backups are always advisable.

SINCE THE STUDENTS' BAGS CAN GET HEAVY, CAN THE iPAD BE USED TO STORE CLASS WORK?
Every effort is made to place all relevant resources and course materials on **Online@Hillbrook.**

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OTHER IMPLICATIONS

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DO TO PROTECT THE STUDENTS' ELECTRONIC PROPERTY?

Students must have a passcode lock on the lock screen of their iPads and this should not be shared.

WILL ASSESSMENT ITEMS BE PLACED ONLINE?

Yes.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DO TO KEEP STUDENTS FROM BEING iPAD OBSESSED?

1. The school will continue to encourage students to take a balanced approach to their education and their lives. We will also continue to place importance on personal relationships being at the centre of what we do.

2. Learning is a social activity. We will continue to develop the personal and interpersonal skills of all students.

3. The iPad is just one educational tool that the students will use during their class time. Students will be involved in many different types of learning experiences at all year levels.

HOW CAN I BLOCK ANOTHER STUDENT ACCESSING MY CHILD'S iPAD?

Every student should have a passcode on the lock screen on their iPad. Students are not to share this code with other students. This is their private, personal passcode.

WHAT DO PARENTS DO ABOUT STUDENTS USING FACEBOOK WHEN AT HOME?

Social networking has become an important part of life for many young people. Some students do find that using Facebook can be a time waster and detract from family time and homework. Parents need to take an active role in helping their sons and daughters prioritise their study time.

Some suggestions are:

1. Negotiate with your child so that they may use Facebook after study time is over.

2. You may choose to change their Facebook password to ensure that your permission is needed to use Facebook.

3. iPads can be kept in a central location in the evening for charging so that students do not have them in their rooms at night.

IN YEARS 11 AND 12, HOW DOES THE SCHOOL ENSURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE ENOUGH PRACTICE AT WRITING BY HAND? ARE NOTES TYPED IN CLASS? WILL WRITING SKILLS BE PRIORITISED DUE TO THE USE OF THE iPAD? SHOULD STUDENTS BE LEARNING TO TYPE?

Hillbrook encourages handwriting skills, but being able to touch type will be a valuable skill. The QCS test in Year 12 requires students to handwrite. In all year levels the majority of assessment tasks done in class are handwritten so students will still have practice at writing by hand.

OTHER SCHOOLS HAVE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES WITHIN THE SCHOOL. A CLOSED FACEBOOK SITE SO THAT STUDENTS CAN MAKE THEIR MISTAKES IN A CLOSED ENVIRONMENT. WILL HILLBROOK HAVE THIS?

Hillbrook has a school intranet site on which students can access information about their school subjects. It hosts forums and discussion groups as well. All students are identified before they join forums on Moodle.

HOW IS HILLBROOK MAKING SURE THAT THE STUDENTS' USE OF TECHNOLOGY IS NOT EXCESSIVE AND THAT THEY ARE NOT GLUED TO THEIR iPADS INSTEAD OF INTERACTING IN THE PLAYGROUND?

Relationships are central to life at Hillbrook. We will continue to monitor the use of new technology during the break periods. We prefer social interactions and physical activity during breaks. We will continue to make adjustments to guidelines based on our feedback from the students and observations from the teachers.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STUDENT'S iPAD IS AWAY FOR REPAIR?

Hillbrook has spare iPads for short term hire.