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11 December 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

RE: INTRODUCTION OF iPads IN YEAR 9

Many thanks to the parents who attended the Year 9 session this week to discuss the implementation of iPads as a learning tool in Year 9. It's clearly a subject that people are interested in and we look forward to having more debate about what is a key area moving forward.

We believe we covered a lot of ground with some of the questions that arose, but we recognise that there are more questions out there that people would like answers to. We are therefore looking to balance the need to augment learning in the classroom with technology with the need to explore this further, and we intend, for the moment, to adjust the approach we are taking from January. The Year 9 technology programme will continue, but we'll start off working with any "always on" devices that students have – smartphone, iPad, android tablet – so that students can use devices they already own and are familiar with. If they don't have access to a smartphone or tablet of their own at the moment then we do recommend the iPad mini.

We do believe strongly that iPads and devices like them are a very powerful tool to support your child's learning and we will continue to work with you to ensure that we are effectively preparing our children for their futures. We want to encourage the effective use of technology to enhance learning at school and in the home and we are looking forward to developing the programme further.

Many thanks for your constructive engagement with us on this subject. We will write with more detail shortly, and we will set up more opportunities to continue the discussion next term.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Chris Share
Head of Secondary