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EDUCATION

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7 November 2014

RE: INTRODUCTION OF iPads IN YEARS 6 AND 9

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our aim is to provide your children with the best possible education. For us, this is about their academic achievement at school and also about preparing them for the complex and rapidly changing world that they will be part of as adults. Our technology provision is a key part of this, and we have been reviewing how we are working with smart phones, tablets and computers over the past few months. We already provide an extremely strong environment for technology. We have a very well specified wireless network throughout the school, with access to high speed network scanning, printing and many other resources. We are running updated computer science and digital literacy programmes throughout the school, with a focus on problem solving through coding and program design. Last summer we rebuilt both primary and secondary computer labs, equipping them with the latest high-speed, touchscreen computers, amongst other things. Students have access to a variety of different computers in a variety of ways, including both PCs and Macs, as we believe strongly in the need for them to become familiar and comfortable with a variety of tools, and not locked into one technology.

To extend the reach of technology further into the classroom, and to embed its use in our high performance learning programme, we have decided to start a new 1:1 iPad programme for students at the school. This will be introduced in stages, and we will be starting with years 6 and 9 in January. We will be asking that every student in year 6 and year 9 has an iPad mini and brings it to school with them each day to use in lessons and other activities.

Why choose the iPad?

We have chosen the iPad platform as it is the market leader in this area, well known and well regarded. We are putting in place the additional infra-structure to support it, including increased wireless networking capacity, Apple TV presentation systems in classrooms, and a system for printing directly from iPads to our big Ricoh network colour printers. We are looking ahead to changes that book publishers are making and will introduce electronic textbooks wherever possible. All of this will allow students and teachers to make maximum use of the technology to enhance learning in and out of the classroom.



What do parents need to buy/provide?

We understand that some students/parents may have a suitable device already. Any iPad other than the original iPad (which doesn't have a camera) is fine. If parents need or wish to buy a new iPad for their son or daughter to use, then we suggest that the iPad mini is most suitable. This is easier to carry around and the least expensive of the Apple range. The 16Gb version is fine for our needs, and there is no need to have the 3G version. Your son or daughter will also need a case. We expect that parents will have their own preferences for where to buy an iPad but we have attached some details of possible suppliers in case that's helpful.

We recommend one of:

- iPad mini 16GB wifi (retail price 1798 RMB) + case
- iPad mini 2 16GB wifi (retail price 2198 RMB) + case

The difference between the two is the resolution of the screen and the speed of the processor, but either model will be acceptable for use in school.

What about security?

Students will be responsible for their own iPads, with appropriate support and guidance from their teachers. They already have electronically operated lockers to keep them in when they are not using them or carrying them around. Parents may wish to make sure that iPads are covered by their own insurance, as the school doesn't carry insurance cover for this. We suggest that students have their names engraved on the iPad, although we will take a record of serial numbers and give students name labels for their iPads as well.

How will we monitor appropriate use?

Students will be responsible for the iPad and everything on it. We may ask that they install particular apps, but they will need to learn how to manage it themselves, as part of learning about operating in the digital world. We will not restrict their ability to add content, as systems for doing this tend to prevent devices from working properly, but we will educate students in the behaviours we expect of them and we will monitor these at school.



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Our internet systems at school are filtered for appropriate content. As with current access to phones and computers, we suggest that parents help their children to find the right balance between 'screen time' and other activities at home, and we will continue to help students with this.

Will students still learn traditional skills?

We see the iPad as a device to supplement our existing teaching and learning, not to replace what we do. We will continue to develop important skills like handwriting, drawing, reading paper books, listening and socialising in the real rather than the virtual world. Having ready access to their own iPad means, however, that students will be able to switch rapidly between different ways of working, so that they are able to cope with whatever demands are made of them in the future.

We are very much looking forward to the launch of this programme. We believe it will really help students to learn key skills and increase the tools available to them to solve particular problems and carry out tasks. We will be listening to student and teacher views on the programme as it starts, to ensure that we tune it effectively, and we will also be running parent sessions during the Spring term to talk about our experiences and to listen to the home perspective. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Chris Share
Head of Secondary

Niki Meehan
Head of Primary



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POSSIBLE SUPPLIERS OF iPads

- **Shanghai Apple Store**
www.apple.com

iapm, No 999 Middle Huaihai Road, Xuhui District
上海市徐汇区淮海中路 999 号
021 33326000

No 282 Middle Huaihai Road, Huangpu District
上海市黄浦区淮海中路 282 号
021 23122800

No 300 East Nanjing Road, Huangpu District
上海市黄浦区南京东路 300 号
021 23131800

LG2-27, IFC, No 8 Century Avenue, Pudong
上海市浦东新区陆家嘴世纪大道 8 号
021 20335300

- **Shanghai Apple T1 Authorised Reseller**
Image Group
良玉科技
www.liangyu.com.cn

Room 129, Floor 1, No 41 North Caoxi Road, Xuhui District
上海市徐汇区漕溪北路 41 号太平洋数码广场一期一层 129 室
021 54900478

Room 1603 & 1615, Floor 1, No 618 Xujiahui Road, Huangpu District
上海市黄浦区徐家汇路 618 号月光中心一层 1615 室
021 64268828
021 34616566

1F, No 1737 Huangxing Road, Yangpu District
上海市杨浦区黄兴路 1737 号乐新数码广场一楼
021 61810138

- **My Cerritos**
No 456 Jinfeng Road, Minhang District
上海市闵行区金丰路 456 号
021 52264766