



Dear Parent/Guardian

During 2011 Kinross College implemented several strategies to assist our students embrace the current trends in technology in alignment with the College's direction of meeting the needs of 21st Century Learners.

A key component of this strategy was the purchase of iPads for all Year 9 students to access both at home and at school. This significant purchase was enabled through Federal Government funding to secondary schools.

The College also independently purchased other banks of iPads for different user groups of students. Unfortunately, continued Federal funding for the purpose of student technology, is not likely in the near future. Therefore, to continue with our iPad implementation across the College, parents were given a number of options to consider, at meetings held late last year. A popular option, was for parents to purchase their children an iPad. The College would then support the use of this technology as well as the provision of secure storage options.

Many parents have purchased iPads, which is very pleasing, however at this point in time, especially with our younger students in Years 6 and 7, we are concentrating on settling students and new staff into routines. Students are adapting to their new curriculum, teachers and classes. Therefore, in Years 6 and 7, there will be a more gradual integration of the iPad into the learning and teaching program. This will depend on individual teachers to some degree, depending on when they feel is the best time, based on student readiness.

At this time, we envisage Year 6 and 7 students using iPads as a regular tool in the latter weeks of Term One. In the meantime please encourage students to utilise this technology at home. We are aware that students by and large will progress far quicker with IT than many of their teachers.

As book publishers develop more texts to become available on the iPads, they will become more and more useful. Many of the applications are still in the developmental stage, particularly in the Primary sector.

Students who are in Years 8 to 10 have commenced using their iPads at the discretion of their teachers. There are many staff who are now very competent in the use of iPads in the classroom. Conversely, there are many new staff at the College this year who are spending time becoming proficient in using iPads themselves before introducing usage in their classes. The College is supporting the professional learning of staff in the use of iPads and other relevant technologies, with a key focus on supporting and enhancing student learning.

As a school, we still have to remain vigilant as we continue to move into the digital age. This means all necessary steps are taken to ensure student safety and privacy.

I wish to make it clear to parents that parent-funded iPads are not compulsory at Kinross College.

While your children will benefit from having one as an educational tool, they certainly will not be disadvantaged in any of their academic pursuits.

I would like to thank parents who have purchased iPads, they will be a useful tool for your children while attending Kinross College. I request that in this interim period, you bear with us till we iron out some of the issues and Professional Learning, required by the staff of Kinross College.

If parents have any further enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Steve Adcock on 9306 6000, or preferably by email steve.adcock@det.wa.edu.au

I thank you in anticipation for your understanding in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lloyd Page', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lloyd Page
PRINCIPAL
16 February 2012