

Technology to Support Learning: Notes for Parents August 2020

Each student is issued with a username and password to our G-Suite platform (@glanmirecollege.com). All incoming first-year students will receive their user accounts during the first week of school and their Computer teacher will support them with how to log-on and how to use the various Applications. Access to our G-Suite platform allows your child to join a “virtual classroom” for each of their subjects where assignments, notes and resources may be posted by teachers, whenever relevant. This will support your child to keep a record of class materials and to easily retrieve relevant resources, such as study notes from anywhere once they have access to an internet-enabled device. This facility also ensures students can continue to engage with their programmes should they not be able to physically attend school.

The vast majority of households now have access to broadband internet and have an internet-enabled device in their home, such as a desktop, laptop, tablet computer or smartphone. Some devices are better than others to support learning, but this is often dependent on the skill set of the child and what they are used to using. Laptops and Tablet computers are portable and have larger screen sizes than smartphones, making them more effective to support learning. There are a variety of Tablets and Laptops available to suit every budget. Some key questions if you are considering buying a device are:

- Is the device equipped with built-in WiFi, camera, speaker and microphone?
- Will my child be able to type and switch between Applications easily using the device?
- How long will the battery last before needing to be recharged?
- Is the device portable and is it robust enough to withstand some knocks and bumps?

A laptop, regardless of whether it's using Windows, IOS or Chrome operating system, is better equipped to answer all coursework needs. Laptops can do all the basics, like navigating various websites and applications such as email, but are also better for typing papers and building presentations. Laptops come with built-in keyboards and make it easy to type, research and take notes. Tablet computers are usually more portable, but smaller in size and rely on touchscreen typing, which can often be slow and cumbersome. However, tablets also have accessories you can buy like a full-size keyboards, provided the tablet is Bluetooth compatible.

Once the device is capable of accessing the internet and logging into our G-Suite platform, your child will be able to access their assignments and learning materials online.

GCC Senior Management