



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

**Digital Momentum in Teaching and  
Learning:  
2023 and beyond**

**From September 2023**



## Introduction

In recent years, there has been a significant shift in the use of technology in education and there are many excellent tools available to support learning. Reflecting upon how we best utilise technology to support teaching and learning, we want to maintain digital momentum alongside traditional teaching to prepare our pupils for the technological future ahead of them.

As a result of this, we require all pupils to have a device that they can work from (excluding smartphones) and that it is inkable; that is, a device with a digital pen accessory to use with the device screen. Several subjects use a predominately digital approach to managing classwork using OneNote and therefore the ability to write on devices is paramount. This device must be in each pupil's normal classroom equipment, and charged, in the same manner that their pencil case is.

Since September 2020 digital literacy has been embedded in the curriculum and continues to evolve. Since September 2022, in Year 7, the Computer Science curriculum has focused on the upskilling of pupils in the use of devices to support learning and their skills will be continuously developed each year. In other year groups, ICT-based learning activities will be embedded throughout the taught curriculum too.

Whilst being digitally literate is of utmost importance nowadays, we must also remember that putting pen to paper still has its place and we need to strike a suitable balance. Indeed, the ability to write legibly, with correct spelling and grammar (without relying upon spell checkers), is important, especially in examinations and therefore, in several subjects, a traditional exercise book will still be used.

Please rest assured that this is not the end of traditional classroom teaching. We want to promote digital literacy and support better learning opportunities. Technology provides many opportunities to meet these aims.



## Maintaining momentum roll out

Device use in school has been rolled out since September 2020 and from September 2023 all pupils should have a device within their standard school equipment.

We currently have mixed economy of devices in terms of owned (Bring Your Own Device) and school leased devices. Options available for the coming academic year are provided below.

### 1. School leased devices

The current device preference offered on a termly lease option from school, is the [Microsoft Surface Go 3](#). Many pupils in current Years 7 to 9 use the Microsoft Go device with great success and very few issues. Our intention is to therefore continue with Microsoft Surface Go device family as the school preferred device.

The benefits of using the school leased device are:

- They are compact, light, robust and particularly well-suited for educational use.
- They offer good value for money compared to similar specification laptops or tablets.
- They also have very fast start-up times, ensuring little time is wasted in class.
- They are also the most completely compatible device with the School network and infrastructure.
- Accidental damage cover and extended warranty as standard together with school contents insurance.
- Case, Type Cover (keyboard) and Surface pen are provided.
- Pre-loaded with all required safeguarding controls and anti-virus software specific to devices used in education.
- Technical support provided in school by the IT support team.
- Tracking enabled devices in the event of loss or theft.



## Lease from Barnard Castle School

### Device and Specification:

Microsoft Surface Go 3

Processor: i3

RAM: 8GB

Storage: 128GB

Extras included: Microsoft Surface Type Cover  
Microsoft Surface Pen  
Rugged Case

Surface Go charging cable

We tasked our supplier with providing a high specification device at best value and we feel that the lease agreement reflects this, with affordable termly payments for a latest specification device.



### Finance Model:

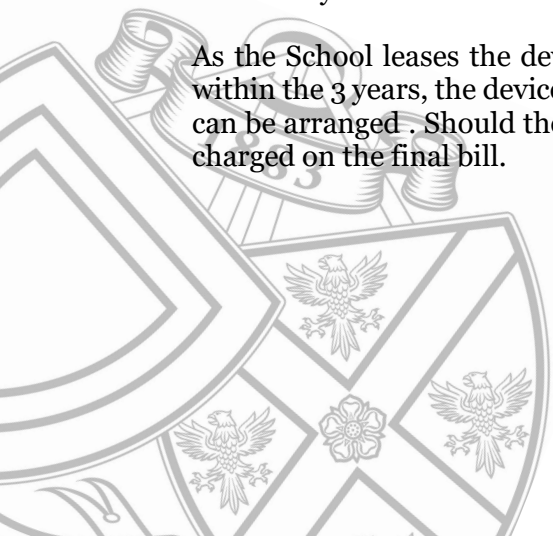
Parents will be charged termly in advance an amount of **£105 per term for 9 terms.**

First termly charge: Michaelmas Term 2023

Final termly charge: Trinity Term 2026

Following the 9<sup>th</sup> termly payment, there will be an option to purchase should parents wish to purchase and take ownership of the device. Alternatively, and the School's preference, is that the device is replaced with the latest model and the lease renews which will fit with the mandatory School device model we aspire to.

As the School leases the device on behalf of the pupil, if the pupil were to leave the School within the 3 years, the device should be returned to School or an option to purchase the device can be arranged. Should the device not be returned, the remaining terms of the lease will be charged on the final bill.



## 2. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

We recognise however that many families invested significantly during the periods of remote learning in new devices for their children and that it is not appropriate to mandate a school leased device at this time. Pupils are therefore able to use current BYOD devices in school.



We recommend the following minimum threshold of specification for personal devices to ensure an optimum teaching and learning experience:

- **The ability to write on the device is essential**
- For tablet style devices, a keyboard is essential
- Windows 10/11 machine with an i3 or Ryzen 5 processor
- 8GB or higher of RAM
- 128GB or higher storage

**Unfortunately, the School IT support department will be unable to provide ongoing technical support for any BYOD. All personal devices should be insured.**

### **What to do now?**

Should you wish to lease a device from School, please complete the link [here](#) by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the device will be ready for your child to collect on the first day of term.

Alternatively, should you prefer that your child uses their existing device, they should ensure they bring it to school with them on the first day of term.

Please do contact the IT Department directly on [ictsupport@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:ictsupport@barneyschool.org.uk) should you have any further IT technical queries about devices.

