



Barnard Castle School
ESTD 1883

Student Devices For New Parents (2026–2027)

Barnard Castle School is proud to be a 1:1 device school in which each student has their own device to support their learning and develop their digital literacy, both in school and at home.

School-managed devices for all

All students in Years 7 - 11 use a school-managed device covered by a comprehensive repair plan in return for a heavily subsidised fee which will be added to termly fee invoices. Students in other year groups (12 and 13) can either opt in to a school-managed device or can bring their

Please complete this [Microsoft Form](#) by 20th July 2026 to arrange a device for your child and confirm your acceptance of the terms and conditions of the lease.

[BCS School Device Lease - 2026 – Fill in form](#)

The benefits of school-managed devices

By taking this approach, not only can we fully embed digital literacy throughout our curriculum confident in the knowledge that all students have access to a high quality, suitable, well-maintained device, but we can better safeguard students against the risks posed online and help students to focus on their work by removing the distractions that self-managed devices inevitably provide. Staff can manage and oversee students' device use when in school and we can meet our statutory requirements to filter and monitor students' use of ICT even more robustly. Our filtering software remains active even when students are accessing the internet via home Wi-Fi or when hot-spotting via their mobile phone, which helps parents keep their child/ren safe at home. By working exclusively on school-managed devices, students also have access to all the apps they need for their studies at home as well as at school, including specialist software for Science, Art and Design, and Computer Science, which previously would only have been available to students in fixed IT suites at school.

Suitable devices for all

The devices we have selected are capable, durable, and multi-function, meeting a wide variety of educational needs and providing consistency for all pupils. We are transitioning to a 'device as a service' (DAAS) structure to ensure that each student always has a suitable device for their needs, and increased flexibility will mean we can keep up to date with fast-moving technology changes. We know that some families may wish to purchase other devices for their children to use for gaming or other uses at home. While we acknowledge that these potentially could be used for schoolwork, we hope that you support the school's decision to permit only school managed devices at school so that we can provide a consistent, safe, and distraction-free digital environment.



Barnard Castle School

ESTD 1883

Expected device allocations (occasionally subject to change based on supply/shipping)

Year Group	Device	Cost	Notes
Year 7	Galaxy Book 3 360 Intel i5/16Gb/250Gb		
Year 8	Lenovo 500W Gen 4 N200/8Gb/128Gb	£50 per term	Expected upgrade in Y10
Year 9	Lenovo 500W Gen 4 N200/8Gb/128Gb	£50 per term	Planned upgrade in Y10
Year 10	Lenovo 13W Gen 2 Ryzen 5/16Gb/512Gb	£75 per term	Planned upgrade in Y10
Year 11	Lenovo 13W Gen 3 Intel i5/16Gb/512Gb	£75 per term	Upgrade TBC
Year 12	-	£75 per term	Choose to lease a school device or bring your own
Year 13	As available - contact it to change	£75 per term	Choose to lease a school device or bring your own

Capabilities of the school device

The devices we have selected are well-conceived for use in education. They can be used both as a traditional laptop and a tablet and are both touchscreen and 'inkable' using the included pen, enabling students to take notes, draw diagrams, and annotate directly on their screens, which can be assessed live by their teacher increasing interactivity, engagement, and collaboration in the classroom. We will provide students with all the software they need to complete their courses and provide charging points and docking stations across the school site for when they need to work with peripherals or a larger screen (in Art, Computer Science, and the Sixth Form Centre for example).

Maintenance and insurance

It is important that all students have a well-maintained device, free of damage, so that they can access the curriculum fully and efficiently and to ensure learning is not disrupted. Students must bring their device and digital pen to every lesson. Most students take excellent care of their device, but we understand that accidents occasionally happen. We are pleased that all school-leased devices are covered by a comprehensive repair plan and we guarantee zero downtime by loaning replacement devices to students if their own device needs to be sent away for repair. To keep costs down for the vast majority of students who never need to repair their device, and to encourage responsible custodianship of the devices by our students, a small excess will be added to a student's termly fee invoice for each accidental damage repair they need or for any replacement accessories. Warrantable breakdowns will be repaired without charge; unreasonable negligence and loss is chargeable at the full replacement cost of the device. We require all damage to be reported and repaired immediately to support students' learning and meet our obligations under our lease agreement.



Barnard Castle School

ESTD 1883

Breakdown	Accidental Damage	Lost Pen	Lost Charger	Lost Device / Negligence (needing replacement)	Non-Return
No charge	£50	Up to £50	£30	Full replacement cost value	Fair market value

Short-term students and students joining the school in Years 8 or 11

Students who join BCS for a short period or students who join in year groups other than 7 or 10, will be provided with a refurbished school-managed device that meets their needs. This will be replaced with a new device at the next planned upgrade point for that year group.

Returning devices

When students leave the school or are due an upgrade, they should bring their devices to IT, as instructed by their Tutor, in the last week of term. Devices will be assessed and photographed when they are handed in. **Pens** and **chargers** must be returned alongside any device being returned. Fair wear and tear is acceptable, but the leasing company will charge for damage or loss as per existing agreements, and we will need to pass these costs on to parents.

Mobile phones and other devices

No other devices will be permitted in school from September 2026 (except in Years 12 and 13) unless permission is granted in advance to meet a specific educational need. **Students in years 7-11 are not permitted their mobile phone or any non-school laptop or tablet in school.** If parents feel that their child/ren need access to mobile phones for the journey to and from school, their phone must be stored in their locker during the school day as they are not permitted in common rooms, classrooms or around the school site. Padlocks are provided by the school to ensure that lockers remain secure. Sixth Formers are permitted mobile phones in school so that we can foster responsible use.

We hope that you can see that we have taken great care to evolve our digital policy to meet the changing needs of our students. We are grateful to parents for your support and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Contact Details

Questions about digital rollout?

Director of Digital Strategy, Christopher Butler (digitalstrategy@barneyschool.org.uk)

Questions about fees and charges?

Bursar, Suzanne Metcalf (bursar@barneyschool.org.uk)

Technical questions or IT support?

IT Manager, Adam Hallowell (itmanager@barneyschool.org.uk)



Barnard Castle School

ESTD 1883

Minimum specification for 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) devices for Sixth Formers

Performance

Processor: Intel i5 or AMD Ryzen 5 or better
RAM: 8Gb or higher 16Gb
Storage: 128Gb or higher
OS: Windows 11

Devices running MacOS (MacBooks) and iPadOS (iPads) do not meet out minimum specification. MacBooks do not support digital pens, and iPads do not run full versions of key software, limiting their educational use. However, we understand that for some subjects, Macbooks offer domain-specific software and will condone their use in Sixth Form.

Features

Pen: Preferred
Keyboard: Essential
Cameras: Front-facing plus world-facing
Charger: USB-C preferred (to match charging stations in school)

Connectivity

Wireless: WiFi 5 or above

Insurance

All self-owned devices should be fully insured against all risks and well-maintained. Damaged and poorly maintained devices are disruptive to classroom learning.

Unfortunately, the School IT support department will be unable to provide ongoing technical support for any BYOD.