



Beacon Business Innovation Hub

BBIH

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5th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school committed to improving our students' digital literacy whilst finding innovative ways to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom, we are excited to be launching our 'Chromebook for Learning' scheme in September 2019. This will involve our students having their own Chromebook to use in their lessons and at home. To achieve this, we will be asking parents/carers to purchase the Chromebook at a very competitive and affordable price.

A Chromebook is Google's version of a portable 'laptop' computer that is cloud based and is smaller, slimmer and faster than a traditional laptop. All storage is unlimited, whilst the speed and software encourage high quality independent and collaborative work. Other key advantages over usual laptops are that they are safer, more secure, more robust and more affordable than many laptops on the market, with longer battery life, stricter parental controls and linked to your other devices, such as a smartphone. More information can be found at: <https://www.google.com/chromebook/>. Thousands of secondary school students across the UK are moving to Chromebooks to help students develop their digital proficiency and we don't want our students to miss out.

A Chromebook allows students to access G Suite for Education, a suite of educational tools that can help increase opportunities for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, all while supporting the learning objectives that our teachers have for our students. Students can work together, in class or at home, to complete assignments and group projects. These tools are free, ad-free, reliable, and secure and include:

- Google Classroom: a virtual learning environment, where teachers can set/collect homework, establish discussion forums and offer verbal or oral feedback
- Google Drive: an unlimited cloud-based drive where students can store their work safely - stories, designs, drawings, recordings, videos – and they can access their files from any device with internet service and never worry about losing their work due to auto save
- Google Docs: documents come to life with smart editing and styling tools to help students easily format text and paragraphs. They can choose from thousands of fonts, plus add links, images, drawings, and tables – similar to Microsoft Word
- and many other programmes such as Google Sheets, Forms, Slides, Drawings, Email, Calendar and sites

As a Trust we have chosen to introduce Chromebooks because our students have shown that they really enjoy working with them and they have brought a new dimension to our students' learning experience. With every student possessing their own Chromebook, lessons will become even more personalised, allowing access to a wide variety of different



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resources and facilitating collaborative working in and outside of the classroom. Our pilot of this scheme last summer at the Forest Academy, proved highly impactful and students are already keen to get started.

In preparation for the September 2019 launch, we will be holding a number of information evenings about the scheme. The evenings will last approx. 40 minutes. There is a leaflet attached to this letter which contains crucial information regarding the scheme and I would ask you to spend some time reading through this. As a school, we have tried to provide you with you as much information as possible. If you have any further questions or queries about the scheme, please do contact us at chromebooks@beaconacademytrust.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

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

Lise Thompson

Principal, Beacon Business Innovation Hub