



## Duke's Secondary School

Josephine Butler Campus, Academy Road  
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ  
Telephone: 01670 816111  
[admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk)

8th June 2021

Dear parent / carer,

### September 2021 Year 7 Chromebook Programme

Duke's Secondary School is implementing a programme to allow 1:1 access to technology for students to enhance their learning experience and enable us to continue to provide the highest levels of education. This exciting programme will build on the successful use of digital devices and applications as part of our remote learning offer during the Covid-19 pandemic, and will support a more modern approach to teaching and learning in school and at home. We recognise that digital learning (Edtech) is becoming increasingly valuable in supporting a child's achievement, and research shows an increase in attainment for students with appropriate access to Edtech opportunities.

Our programme is aimed at increasing the use of Chromebooks as an integral part of a student's school 'toolkit'. This will further help pupils organise, communicate, learn and study both at school and when at home, developing their ability to work independently as well as with others. From September 2021 we propose that all year 7 students in Duke's Secondary School should have access to a Chromebook for their own use at school and at home. We understand that often students will need to share devices at home which can make it difficult for students to access remote learning opportunities for themselves on a regular basis.

To achieve our aim, from September 2021 we are introducing a Chromebook programme for parents of year 7 students. The duration of the Chromebook programme is over a term of 36 months, at the end of which we anticipate that the device can be purchased outright by yourselves at the residual cost, or returned to school. At the end of the programme we will continue to use the devices through year 10 and year 11, or there may be an option to lease a newer model for use in Key Stage 4.

Although year 11 (2021-22) and 6f students have already been allocated a device from existing school resources, these are older models and we do not have the resources to be able to do this for all year groups. Our scheme will allow year 7 students to have an up to date, brand new Chromebook to take with them throughout Key Stage 3, making full and effective use of Edtech for learning.

#### Why have we opted to consider this programme?

- Large numbers of computers that can be managed centrally
- Works seamlessly with Google Apps for Education other cloud-based applications
- Warranties and insurances are included
- We can provide the best levels of eSafety for our students



### Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust is a company limited by  
Guarantee registered in England and Wales with Company No: 6653439





## Duke's Secondary School

Josephine Butler Campus, Academy Road  
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ  
Telephone: 01670 816111  
[admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk)

### What are we looking for from parents / carers?

We require the support of the parents and families of students at Duke's Secondary to help fund the Chromebook scheme for students entering year 7 in September 2021. In order for the programme to be able to run we are asking parents / carers to contribute a suggested donation. We are committed to making access available to all year 7 students by setting this figure at **£3 per week** (payable as £12 monthly, for 36 months) to the scheme.

This figure is lower than the actual cost, and is being supported by a significant investment from Duke's in order that voluntary donations are kept to a manageable level. Further support will be offered to parents of students who qualify for Pupil Premium funding. Pupil Premium is a national funding strategy to support qualifying students in improving progress and attainment. No child will be excluded because of their family's inability to contribute financially.

The scheme is being operated on our behalf by the Learning Foundation, a charity that supports digital access for all students. Payments, licencing, warranties and insurance will be organised and supported by the Learning Foundation, and their partner Edutech. As the Learning Foundation is a non-profit making charity they will be able to claim Gift Aid ( on the school's behalf) on all parental donations received from parents/carers who pay income tax. The Gift Aid is provided free by the Government and increases the amount of the donation by 25%. The good news is that ticking the Gift Aid box on the on-line direct debit form doesn't cost anything, meaning that a £12 donation with Gift Aid is worth £15.00.

### What's included in the package?

We will provide a brand new, fully expensed Chromebook, that can be used at school and at home, protective case, Education specific accidental damage and theft insurance (with zero excess), warranty, software and full support for the duration of the scheme whilst your child remains a student at Duke's Secondary School. A home / school agreement will follow this letter detailing expectations for use of the device together with other practical considerations.

### FAQs

A separate document addressing Frequently Asked Questions accompanies this letter.

We are rolling out this programme as part of the transition programme to Duke's Secondary for your son / daughter, and there will be representative staff from Duke's available during scheduled transition events to discuss this scheme with you further. In the meanwhile, complete the attached form and return it to your son / daughter's primary school. Should you have any further questions please feel free to contact Mr Thompson via [admin@dss.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admin@dss.ncea.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Thompson  
Associate Leader / Director of Creative Arts



Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust is a company limited by  
Guarantee registered in England and Wales with Company No: 6653439





## Duke's Secondary School

Josephine Butler Campus, Academy Road  
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ  
Telephone: 01670 816111  
admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk

### DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL CHROMEBOOK SCHEME

NAME OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT PRIMARY SCHOOL / CAMPUS \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the accompanying letter and frequently asked questions document. **YES / NO** (*delete as appropriate*)

I would like to make a voluntary contribution of £12 per month (36 months) to the Chromebook leasing scheme, operated by Edutech (via the Learning Foundation Charity). **YES / NO**

I am a UK tax-payer and would like to add Gift Aid to my contribution. **YES / NO**

My son / daughter is eligible for Pupil Premium funding\* and I would like further information on this level of voluntary contribution  
(\*please contact your son / daughter's Primary School if unsure) **YES / NO**

I would be keen to discuss the opportunity to purchase the Chromebook outright at the start of the scheme **YES / NO**

I would like to discuss voluntary contributions further with a member of staff from Duke's Secondary School **YES / NO**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (parent / carer) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust is a company limited by  
Guarantee registered in England and Wales with Company No: 6653439

