



# **SHEVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

## **CHROMEBOOKS FOR LEARNING PROGRAM 2024**

**GUIDE AND FAQ'S FOR PARENTS**

## Chromebooks for Learning

Shevington High School has been using Google Classroom for a number of years as part of our SAIL curriculum model. By harnessing technology, we open up a wealth of opportunities to improve our students' learning experience, whilst better preparing them for a future in a modern world. We want to empower students to take control of their learning and to work in a more individual and personalised way. Furthermore, we have seen how students learn to explore and produce work in new and engaging ways embracing creativity both in school and out.

For a number of years, we have been operating a 1:1 device scheme, whereby all students have access to a Chromebook or laptop throughout the day. When we first set out to deliver this our preference would have been to purchase Chromebooks for all our students from school funds, but unfortunately this simply not feasible or achievable.

As a result, and over the last few years we have been operating a Chromebook purchase / lease scheme for parents. This has been extremely successful enabling the majority of our students to have access to a Chromebook to use in school and at home.

By joining this scheme students will have their own Chromebook exclusively for use both at school and at home. There is no financial gain to Shevington High School from this program and we have worked with a number of suppliers to negotiate a favourable price and secure stock for our students. This document includes full details of the scheme and frequently asked questions.

### What is a Chromebook?

Chromebooks are different to laptops in that they run the Google Chrome Operating System. This means that Chromebooks primarily work through a wireless connection with Google apps and documents available whilst online in the cloud.

### Why has School opted for Chromebooks?

One of the main reasons is that a Chromebook has less than an 8 second boot-up time which means there is no time wasted waiting for the device to start-up at the beginning of a lesson, but in addition to this Chromebooks offer the following advantages: -

- ❖ Longer battery life
- ❖ Simple technology
- ❖ Easy student teacher workflow
- ❖ Excellent collaboration tools
- ❖ Can be used for homework
- ❖ Smaller and lighter to carry than a standard laptop
- ❖ Work seamlessly with Google Apps for Education which our students and teachers already use

### What are the benefits of the Chromebook program?

- ❖ 3-years accidental insurance for the device
- ❖ 1-year warranty
- ❖ Research has shown these devices are very reliable and have good longevity
- ❖ Chromebooks are increasingly being used in further education
- ❖ It will be used as a professional tool at school and for homework, but students can use for their personal use at home (restrictions can be retained or removed)
- ❖ Supporting students in developing technological skills for the world of work
- ❖ Full ownership of device at end of the scheme i.e. once all payments have been made
- ❖ No credit checks
- ❖ The device will be your son/daughters reducing the demand on shared computers at home
- ❖ You will be able to see what work has been set via your parent email alerts

## 10 Reasons to join the program for students

1. Students work independently and at a pace that suits their needs
2. Get unlimited access to teaching and learning resources
3. Collaborate with other students electronically
4. Communicate with their teachers and get support when they need it most
5. Work from anywhere in Shevington High School, not just in ICT suites
6. Develop a proficiency in IT
7. Bring their work home in a digital format where you can view it
8. 8 second boot-up meaning time is not wasted in class
9. Stay organized with the online calendar for deadlines and events
10. Stay safe online with safeguarding software included

## What if my child already has a Chromebook or I want to buy one outside the scheme?

We welcome students who want to bring their own Chromebook, therefore if you wish to buy your own Chromebook then please bear in mind the following minimum hardware specifications:

- ❖ 802.11 ac Wireless
- ❖ Minimum 4GB RAM
- ❖ Minimum 16GB Storage

Please note, we would be unable to provide technical support for these devices nor would the Chromebook benefit from the accidental damage insurance and warranty included as part of the package that school offers.

**Parents must provide their own insurance for the device if purchasing outside of the scheme.**

## Can my child bring a device we already have at home?

Students can bring a device from home in-line with our 'Bring your own device policy'. As long as they meet the minimum specifications and have parental consent.

Ideally, we would prefer all students to participate in the program. Through visiting schools with a variety of devices and brand schemes we discovered two major drawbacks of allowing a range of devices. The biggest was in the 'lag time' for learning. For example, students who had been given new devices by their parents could get online and access class work set on tools like Google Classroom rapidly. However, not every student in a class would have a brand new laptop or MacBook to bring in from home and older devices took more time to boot up, so these students were sat around waiting to get to the lesson materials and not learning. Furthermore, with devices a couple of years older it was seen that some failed to have even one hour of battery life despite a full charge.

Additionally, it was evident how the lesson began to revolve around the technology as there was often a range of devices from tablets, laptops and Macbooks. Teachers instead of teaching had to start troubleshooting and trying to help the student work their piece of technology rather than getting to the depth and breadth of the topic of the lesson. We want to avoid this at all costs as technology is a tool to help learning, it should not distract from it.

The minimum requirement for bringing your own device is as follows:

- ❖ 5 hour battery life
- ❖ Chrome browser
- ❖ Suitable insurance to cover loss/damage
- ❖ Laptop/tablet with FULL QWERTY keyboard

Please see our [BYOD policy](#) for full details.

## FAQs - General

### Will Chromebooks be used in every lesson, every day?

Traditional methods of learning will still hold a vital place at Shevington and students will not be using these devices 5 hours every school day. Chromebooks are an educational tool, not a replacement for these methods.

### Can the Chromebook be used at home?

Yes. Using the Chromebook in school and at home supports our goal of anytime, anywhere learning.

### What investments will Shevington High be making?

Preparations for this scheme began over 5 years ago following research into how technology can support learning. The school has invested in expanding wireless coverage and improving connectivity to ensure it is ready to support new Chromebooks.

### What if there is not enough take-up?

We are looking for 80% uptake of the program.

If we do not reach this figure the scheme will be reassessed and may not run.



**Deadline to sign up for the scheme is  
6:00 p.m. on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**<https://shevington.parentportal.biz>**

**Order code SHS21-21**

### Will our students be in danger if they are carrying a Chromebook to school?

Many students already carry valuable electronic devices to school such as smartphones and the Chromebook is not seen to provide a notable additional risk. Personal safety is also taught as part of our PSHE curriculum. We also suggest you register this device and indeed any other electronics device with the Police Immobilise Database (<https://www.immobilise.com/>), the largest free possession ownership log which helps to get recovered property to its rightful owners.

## Curriculum FAQs

### How will the school ensure students get the most from the Chromebooks?

Shevington High teaching staff are committed to developing opportunities to engage with new technologies so that devices support learning. Over the past 4 years teachers have taken part in professional development and training to embed opportunities for learning with Chromebooks and to develop their use of the Google Apps for Education suite. Several staff are Google Certified Educators and we will soon be a Google reference site in recognition of our work.

### How will the device be used in the classroom?

As a tool to support and enhance learning and promote creativity such as accessing Google documents, recording visual elements of learning such as role play or experiments. We seek to equip all our students with the necessary skills and modes of thinking so that they will succeed in a constantly changing society, where high levels of skill in the use of new technologies are the currency for employment.

### Will the device be used every lesson?

Not always. There will be times when it is not suitable for learning such as when students will complete practice exam questions or simply when the learning is fit for purpose. Furthermore, we are mindful that students do not stare at a screen for long periods of time and would encourage you to support us in this at home whether the device is a Chromebook or other like smartphone or tablet.

There will also be the opportunity for students to decide which is the best learning tool for the job. For example, students may decide to simply take rough notes on paper rather than using their device. We are keen to develop student's independent learning skills and support them in finding their preferred learning and revision techniques.

### Will students still use pen and paper?

Students will be expected to write in some lessons therefore students will be writing notes on paper and practicing their handwriting as they face formal written exams in Y11.

Students are still expected to bring black pens and pencils etc to school as they do currently and will still engage in tasks to practice handwriting.

### Will the device be used for homework?

Yes, over the past few years teachers have been developing and refining the use of Google Classroom so that your son/daughter will receive their homework task via their Google account.

## DEVICE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

### What Chromebooks are on offer?

This year due to price and availability we have secured stock of the Lenovo 100e as pictured below.

#### Lenovo 100e



#### Specification

- ❖ AMD 3015Ce (2C / 4T, 1.2 / 2.3GHz, • 1MB L2 / 4MB L3)
- ❖ 4GB Soldered DDR4-1600
- ❖ 32GB eMMC 5.01
- ❖ 11.6" HD (1366x768) TN 250nits Anti-glare
- ❖ Chrome OS

#### Payment Options:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ One-off purchase price     | <b>£374.68</b>          |
| ❖ 12 month term payment plan | <b>£33.65 per month</b> |
| ❖ 24 month term payment plan | <b>£17.99 per month</b> |

#### Price includes:

- ❖ 3 year accidental Insurance
- ❖ 1 year warranty
- ❖ Explorer Protective Case (**this must be used at all times to ensure validity of insurance**)

### What are the key features?

- ❖ **Speed** - because it is only running a web browser at its core, there is less to load so it is faster to start up and be ready to use
- ❖ **Long battery life** - with more of the effort being performed by the cloud the device can last longer between charges
- ❖ **Work online or offline** - various cloud-based apps can take advantage of local storage to ensure you can keep working offline. Your changes are then automatically synced when you next go online
- ❖ **Easy collaboration** - Google Apps is built around collaboration so multiple people can edit a document at the same time and see each other's changes allowing for true group working
- ❖ **Continuity** - No matter what Chromebook you log into you will find everything as you left it because your settings and data is all stored in the cloud
- ❖ **Updates** - Automatic updates happen without requiring your input meaning you always have the latest features and speed enhancements
- ❖ **Protected** - Thanks to the automatic updates you will always have the latest virus protections and with your data stored in the cloud everything is already backed up for you

## What else do I need to know about Chromebooks?

In recent years there has been a move away from the more traditional approach of installing applications to a computer and only having that data available on that one device. It is now more common to use a web-based application that stores your data securely in the cloud allowing you to pick up from wherever you left off on whatever device you happen to have.

A Chromebook is the next evolution of this by taking the Google Chrome browser and making it the sole focus of the laptop so that everything is accessed through a web browser. With the addition of the Chrome Extension/App ecosystem you are able to access a wealth of “Desktop-style” applications which wrap around web-based systems.

## How does it work?

When you login to a Chromebook using a Shevington.net email address you will immediately have access to all of your email and documents stored in Google Drive as well as access to Google Classroom which many teachers have already started using to set homework and enhance lessons.

You aren't just limited to the Google Apps suite (email, documents, sheets) you also have access to the Internet and our curated list of extensions that support learning and revision. If you login to another Chromebook you'll find all of your settings are already transferred across and you can keep working as normal.

## How is it different from a laptop?

There are some obvious differences between a Chromebook and a normal laptop, such as the inability to install applications such as Photoshop or Microsoft Office as they require a full desktop Operating System (OS). However, students will have access to their Office 365 account, Google Gsuite and a host of other packages including Adobe.

A Chromebook will also be of a lower overall specification than a traditional laptop, however that does not mean that it can't do as much! On the contrary, a Chromebook can make full use of the cloud and web apps are able to process much more information far faster than a traditional device.

Finally, a common misconception is that a Chromebook is useless without an Internet connection, unlike a normal laptop, however this is not the case thanks to offline storage meaning that Google Drive items can still be edited and many apps and extensions can still work even if just in a limited capacity until connected back to the Internet.

## Who repairs or replaces the Chromebook if it gets damaged?

Chromebooks acquired via the leasing scheme come with a **1-year warranty** and **3-year accidental insurance package** (**the protective case must always be used to ensure the insurance validity**).

However, should the Chromebook become damaged, you simply contact Edde via the portal.

It should be noted that devices sent away for repair normally take the industry standard time of 2 to 3 weeks to pass through the repairs procedure.

Full details of the insurance are provided on the scheme portal for you to view, print or download at any time during the 24-month scheme. This includes a claim form, contact details and the steps to take when making a claim.

## Will pupils be issued a loan-device while theirs is being repaired?

Pupils will not normally be issued a loan device to take home, but they will be able to loan one during lessons where one will be needed.

## Can we install our own apps and content?

Yes, students will be able to add their own apps and other content providing there is space on the device and they meet our acceptable use policy.

### What technical support and training will be provided?

At the start of the school year students will be taught how to use the Google Apps suite in preparation for receiving their device.

### How will devices be charged?

Students are expected to charge their devices before coming to school for the day. This is due to few electrical points in classrooms, especially in the older buildings and due to the tripping hazard of trailing leads. If the device runs out of charge students will choose the 'traditional' way of recording their learning via pen and paper.

### Can my child print from their device?

Chromebooks will be able to print to a variety of devices around the school.



## E-SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING QUESTIONS

### How do you teach students about eSafety?

There is a comprehensive program of events supporting students, parents and teachers in e-safety that runs across the academic year.

### What filtering and monitoring will be used on the devices in school?

At school student devices will be connected to the Shevington wireless network and filtered Internet connection. This system blocks unsuitable content and logs access.

Mobile Device Management software will be installed which allows the school to monitor usage and if required add/remove apps or remotely wipe devices.

Senso is also included as part of the package which provides safeguarding monitoring reporting to our safeguarding and pastoral teams.

### How can I help my child use the device safely outside of school?

We ask parents to talk to their child/children about e-safety and what they have found out at school and discuss the importance of staying safe online. Further information is available on our school website.

## LEASING SCHEME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

### Does my child have to lease or purchase a device?

It is not a requirement that every student joins the leasing scheme and we welcome the decision to buy your Chromebook independently.

If you would prefer to buy one yourself then it will work the same way as the leasing scheme devices once logged in with a Shevington.net email address. If you provide your own Chromebook then you will need to ensure that it is fully insured as the school will accept no responsibility for any damage, loss or theft and we will only be able to provide technical support for Google Apps when using a Shevington email address.

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Students can also bring their own devices that are not Chromebooks - see BYOD policy for details. The program is not compulsory.

### What happens if the device gets damaged at home or at school?

Accidental damage and theft insurance are provided as part of the agreement for any leased/purchased device. **Remember – the supplied protective case must be used at all times to ensure validity of the insurance**

### When will devices be distributed?

Devices will be distributed as soon as we can receive stock. A collection date will be confirmed and emailed to you nearer the time.

### What if my child qualifies for pupil premium?

**A subsidy is available for some pupil premium students - details on application.**

**Please email school at [finance@shevingtonhigh.org.uk](mailto:finance@shevingtonhigh.org.uk)**

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**Order Code SHS21-21**

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**Price includes:-**

3 year accident insurance

1 year warranty

Max Explorer Protective Case (must be used at ALL times to ensure validity of insurance)