



September 2025

Dear Parents,

### **d'Overbroeck's - Computer Hardware advice for students and parents**

The events of 2020-2021, and more recently the advancements of AI, are testament to the importance of our students developing computer literacy and building 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Embracing digital technologies must be at the forefront of our students' education.

As such, d'Overbroeck's operates a 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) policy across the school. This means that students bring their own computing device to school, which they can connect to the school's Wi-Fi for the purposes of completing school related work and activities.

We issue students with a 'Microsoft 365' account that grants students full access to Microsoft's productivity suite, including: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, Teams, Outlook, and OneDrive. Our Microsoft license allows students to use the cloud-based version of this suite and the downloadable desktop version. Microsoft 365 is used extensively throughout the school across all lessons and students are expected to make full use of this software. d'Overbroeck's has been recognized as a Microsoft Showcase School for the last three years, acknowledging our innovative use of technology for teaching and learning and our drive to ensure that our students leave us not just academically successful but also equipped with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they will need to thrive in the real world.

With regard to the type of device a student should bring with them to school, we ask that these minimum requirements be met:

- Windows operating system (Windows 10 or 11)
- Has a touchscreen and a stylus supporting inking
- 10+ hour battery life

Meeting these requirements ensures 100% compatibility with the school's digital environment, including the 365 suite of software, our Wi-Fi and network services, and our digital assessment platforms, as well as other subject specific software. It is also worth noting that our teachers are all equipped with Microsoft Surface Pros and as such are well equipped to support students using the same operating system and app configurations.

Please consider the following devices as suitable at time of writing:

- **For Key Stage 3 and 4 students** - (i.e. students from age 11-16),
  - SAMSUNG Galaxy Book3 360 - £549.00
  - HP ENVY x360 14" - £699.00
  - LENOVO IdeaPad Flex - £849.00
- **For Sixth Form students** we currently recommend the **Surface Pro CoPilot+ /9/10/11**. Pricing typically starts at £849.00 for the base model + £440.00 for the keyboard type cover + Surface pen.

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*(All pricing, model recommendations and compatibility correct at time of writing)*

For all students, a suitable carry case is also recommended.

We strongly advise against Macbooks as they do not have a touchscreen or stylus.

Similarly, we advise against iPads as the subtle differences in software, browser, and connectivity cause unwelcome complications in the classroom.

Extensive research has shown that writing by hand engages areas of the brain associated with recall and comprehension that typing on a keyboard by-passes. Providing learners with a device that has a precise, on-screen digital pen, increases their ability to:

- Produce appropriate ideas
- Solve problems
- Communicate and build on complex ideas
- Make accurate inferences about information
- Learn during notetaking and knowledge creation

Research shows that a digital pen is one of the most important components in ensuring the impact of a device for maximizing learning outcomes. We hope, therefore, it will be possible for most students to have a digital pen from this September because of the benefits this brings so if you are replacing a device or upgrading, please bear this in mind. Please note: all students must have a device with a stylus by September 2025.

We believe that students having access to digital devices allows them to better develop the advanced skills they will need to succeed in the globalised, knowledge-based world of today and tomorrow. Specifically, 'Collaboration', 'Skilled communication', 'Knowledge construction', 'Self-regulation', 'Real-world problem-solving and innovation', and of course 'Use of ICT for learning'. These six skills make up the pillars of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Design, a methodology developed in collaboration by Microsoft and Showcase schools around the world.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a specific device, you are considering for your son or daughter please do contact me at: [dominic.hunter@doverbroecks.com](mailto:dominic.hunter@doverbroecks.com)

Regards

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