Dear Year 7 Parent / Carer

Background:

Our Chrome Book scheme has been in operation since September 2015 with over 70% of parents purchasing a device through the school. We have also provided considerable financial help through the scheme to disadvantaged students in receipt of the pupil premium grant.

Education is constantly developing, technology changes rapidly and the financial situation is now very different to when we started the scheme. We have run the scheme ourselves, rather than using a management company, in order to reduce costs but this is now proving more challenging as tighter budgets mean there are fewer staff in school.

We have 4 years’ experience to look back on and it is now considered an appropriate time to consult with parents / carers, staff and students about the future direction of the scheme. Your feedback to this consultation is important to us.

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| **Some Advantages of the scheme** | **Some Disadvantages of the scheme** |
| Student engagement in learning | Weight of the device |
| Easy access to online resources and revision | Some warranty/insurance issues |
| Easy to manage and monitor student use in school | Reducing take up in the scheme meaning not all students have one for use in the classroom |
| Independent learning | Some defaults in payments resulting in loss of money to the school |
| Easy availability in the classroom | Demand on school staff in managing the scheme |
| Fast at loading up when turned on |  |

**Recent developments**

School staff and students have been trialing the use of a tablet type device over the last two terms. This was completed to see if the use of a tablet would be a suitable, cheaper alternative to the Chromebook. Feedback from the trial has been positive from users - the tablet device on trial was much more affordable. However there were some concerns raised about the life expectancy of the device. It is designed as a consumer device not ideally suited to a 1:1 scheme in the education sector. Web browsing would be secure and safe through our own web filtering but there would not be the same ease of management of devices to monitor their use in the way we can do with chrome books.

**Future Direction**

It is the school’s opinion that the cost of running a scheme in-house is no longer financially possible. This means that the school would have to use an external company to manage a chrome book scheme and this will raise costs.

We would like your opinion on which of the following three options you would support.

**Option one**: Continue the chrome book scheme which would be managed by an external company. Indicative costs for a Lenovo chrome book would be

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| --- | --- |
| Lenovo 300e£408.96 in full or £11.36 x 36 monthly  | Lenovo 100e £347.76 in full or £9.99x36 monthly |
| These prices include the additional costs of an external company to manage the scheme, license, 3yr accidental damage, theft cover and warrantyStudents in receipt of pupil premium would receive a discount of 50% |

**Option two:**

Students would be allowed to bring their own device into school under a Bring Your Own Device Scheme (BYOD) This would allow students to bring into school devices from home that could be used in lessons, including cheaper tablet type devices, but school would play no part in the purchase or management of these devices. There would be certain device specifications that would need to be met. Parents / carers would need to consider appropriate insurance to protect against accidental damage.



Huawei MediaPad T3

£120 (Typical low cost tablet)

**Option three**

Discontinue the scheme so that students do not have their own device in school. The existing scheme for Years 8 to 11 would remain unchanged.

Please use the separate **Response Form** to provide your feedback regarding this consultation by Friday 8th February 2019.

If you have any questions relating to the consultation please email schemeconsultation@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk

Thank you