INTRODUCTION

Technology at Meriden is used to encourage the girls to be:
— skilled communicators
— flexible and creative thinkers
— resourceful and discerning learners
— responsible and well-informed global citizens.

These skills and characteristics are consistent with *The Fidelis Model*, the Teaching and Learning Framework at Meriden.

Furthermore, technology is used to enhance learning by:
— providing the girls with ready access to information which is comprehensive, authentic and up-to-date
— enabling the girls to evaluate, manipulate and present their information in an effective way
— enhancing the virtual communication skills of the girls
— developing the girls’ critical literacy skills and ICT skills in order to better prepare them for life after school
— promoting the global outlook of the girls
— enhancing the citizenship of the girls
— engaging the girls in their learning through the use of contemporary and familiar means.

HARDWARE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The technology hardware and infrastructure at Meriden are multifaceted, comprehensive and appropriate, and include the following:
— desktops with specialised programs such as the Adobe Suite for subjects such as Visual Arts, and Design and Technology
— banks of laptops which provide mobile access to the internet and student work from any classroom
— banks of tablets which are available for use by all departments as an interactive research tool
— computer laboratories in the School’s libraries
— individual laptops for use by the girls in Years 11 and 12 in their study periods
— electronic whiteboards in classrooms which provide interactive teaching and learning to the classrooms
— sophisticated multimedia equipment and facilities for electronic publication, photography and editing
— video conferencing facilities
— an impressive broadband connection (1GB) and wireless network
— a multitude of learning software, resources, applications and reference CDs.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

The use of Information Technology is an integral part of teaching and learning in the Junior School. Its everyday use is a natural and embedded component across the subject areas, and is reflected in all aspects of communication across the School and with our school families.

The Junior School is well-equipped with classroom computers, tablets, interactive whiteboards (IWBs), two excellent computer laboratories, AV equipment, and an ICT-focused library. In addition, students have access to tools for visual literacy such as digital, still and video cameras and Photoshop programs. Skype facilities are also accessible for use in classrooms. Class teachers and the library staff support the development of the girls’ research and ICT skills.

From Pre-Kindergarten, electronic whiteboards are frequently used for information gathering and research. IWBs are also used for teaching or reinforcement activities and games, and for multimedia presentations and productions. Many of our students’ textbooks have linked teaching programs that are accessed via IWB or classroom computers; several programs in literacy, spelling and mathematics are designed for both home and school use.
Specialist subject areas such as Music and Languages, in particular, benefit from the use of specialised applications and programs such as musical compositions and musicology, language acquisition, and on-line competitions. Individualised programs are also available for students who need tailored instruction in areas of difficulty or extension, through individualised programs and tablet apps.

Our students are carefully instructed in cyber-safety and netiquette, with email accounts provided for girls from Year 4. Each year, a team of Years 5 and 6 students is trained as ICT Monitors and provides valuable assistance and leadership in the use of ICT across the Junior School.

SENIOR SCHOOL

(NB. This section should be read in conjunction with the leaflet, Technology in the Senior School.)

Technology is embedded into all areas of the curriculum in the Senior School. The Senior School girls are very familiar and confident with technology, and use it for research, analysis, communication and the presentation of their work. Because of the different requirements of technology in the Senior School, the available technology is varied and flexible, depending on the subject area and the age of the girls.

From 2014, Year 7 girls are asked to acquire a specific technology device to store their textbooks. As well as easing the burden of carrying textbooks to school, this cost-efficient device will allow the girls to read, write and research efficiently and effectively.

The girls in Years 10 – 12 have the choice of bringing their own device to School or continuing with the tablet technology from Years 7 – 9. All girls may borrow a laptop from the ICT Department for short periods of time during the school day to enhance their private study or homework.

Teachers at Meriden store learning resources such as Youtube clips, TED talks, podcasts, blogs, etexts and collaboration and presentation tools for the girls on the School’s centralised system; the girls also use this system to store their work. Using their user names and passwords, girls can access these resources through the School’s web portal from any location world-wide through the internet.

A student in the Senior School can use her Student Card to print any work, as required. These printers are located in strategic positions around the School.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Meriden students are expected to be well-mannered and thoughtful digital citizens, using technology in an ethically-responsible way. We expect students to be fine ambassadors of the School in both the real and the virtual world.

The Meriden girl:
— follows Meriden’s internet usage policy regarding websites and information that is accessed
— selects appropriate online names
— posts only positive and helpful information and images
— does not engage in cyberbullying and respects the privacy of others
— does not engage in any hacking behaviour, or in any behaviour that could damage Meriden’s image or its network.

ICT PERSONNEL

At Meriden, there are many staff members who assist the girls in the use of technology. As well as their teachers, Meriden boasts:
— a well-resourced and well-staffed ICT Department
— an ICT Integrator
— technology-proficient library staff
— librarians across the School who support the development of the students’ research and ICT skills
— a Head of Student Research who works with Senior School girls to enhance their research skills from all forms of reference material.

CONTACT

Further information about technology at Meriden can be obtained by contacting the Head of Junior School (9752 9417 or juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au) or the Head of Senior School (9752 9444).

The Technology staff at Meriden can be contacted on ICTstaff@meriden.nsw.edu.au, or by contacting the School on 9752 9444.