At Meriden, technology is used to develop young women who are well-informed and critical thinkers. Teaching Meriden girls to make their way through, and benefit from, the virtual world is achieved by giving them access to, and experience with, technology in its many forms.

TECHNOLOGY IN YEARS 7 – 9

In Years 7–9, the girls use technology to enhance their learning along with the more traditional approaches. The girls:

— Continue to have a workbook for each subject and record information by hand so that skills in handwriting continue to develop
— Access the internet for research and information
— May use a personal device to access etexts and relevant apps
— Receive resource material electronically, in both multimodal and interactive forms
— Receive and submit homework for marking by electronic means
— Use educational apps for learning, skills development and revision
— Collaborate appropriately with their peers in a safe cyberspace environment
— Use their device to create and present projects, and communicate and manage information when making a presentation.

Parents are required to supply a touch device for their daughter in Year 7 at Meriden. The tablet device must be brought to school on a daily basis and be fully charged. Electronic versions of her required textbooks and apps are installed on this device; the tablet is also used in lessons in the classroom when appropriate. This is a cost-effective way of purchasing the texts, as well as minimising the weight of the girls’ school bags.

The exact model of the tablet, which is a Windows 8 device, is stipulated by the School, and can be purchased directly from a supplier or through the School’s website. At the start of Year 7, the girls are assisted in setting up their tablet which includes connecting to the School’s wireless system and logging into Meriden’s networks.

Meriden will provide wireless connectivity including internet, a content management system, email, centralised collaborative and communication systems, and backup and archival services for school work.

Additional Options

The following items are optional items for your daughter’s device:

— Screen and device cover – highly recommended
— Extended warranty – a 3-year warranty is recommended
— Wireless keyboard – this item is recommended primarily for home use
— Wireless mouse.
TECHNOLOGY IN YEARS 10 – 12

Meriden girls are individuals with different needs and learning styles. As a girl moves into the senior years, Meriden allows students to choose the device which they would like to use to support their learning. Some students will use laptops or notebooks while other students will continue to use the tablet technology they are familiar with from Years 7 – 9. This approach is referred to as a Bring Your Own device (BYOD) program.

If students do not wish to bring a device to school, there are other options for them. Year 11 and 12 students are able to borrow laptops from the ICT department during their study periods, or use the computers in the senior section of the Hudson Library. Teachers are also able to borrow class sets of laptops and/or tablets for use in the classroom.

While this technological focus encourages students to become proficient in their technical skills, Meriden maintains a focus on handwriting as well. Students need to be able to think and express themselves with pen and paper in the HSC, so it is expected that girls will continue to work with pen and paper in the classroom so that they are able to write clearly and legibly.

Minimum Requirements

The BYOD program offers Meriden students the choice of their own device when studying on campus. Whilst the choice of device is the students’, the device needs to meet a set of requirements as listed below:

— 5 hours or more battery life
— Able to connect to the School’s wireless network
— Contain anti-virus protection.

Students who choose to bring their own device will be able to use their devices in the classroom where appropriate. Their device is required to be able to connect to the School’s wireless system so they are portable and usable in any space around the school. Uses may include:

— Researching information
— Creating documents for class use
— Collaborating with peers
— Presenting information
— Communicating with peers and teachers.

Students who choose not to bring their own device will have ample access to school computers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 7 – 12

Usage Protocols

Meriden students are expected to be well-mannered and thoughtful digital citizens, using technology in an ethically-responsible way.

Students are expected to care for their devices in the same way they do for all their other belongings. However, there are some protocols which are specific for electronic devices:

— Students should ensure that their device is fully charged and ready for use at school
— Students should not share their device with other students
— Storage of the device is the responsibility of the student. If she is not using it for a lesson, then it should be locked in her locker.

While the Meriden ICT helpdesk is happy to help with issues, they will not be responsible for any repairs to the student devices. The device remains the property of the student and, as such, the student and her family need to arrange for any repairs that may be necessary.

While the School always aims to provide assistance to students in need, it is not responsible for any loss or damage that occurs to the device.

Frequently Asked Questions

— What do I do when my tablet is away for repair?
  — Students will be able to access resources in the Library
— What do I do if my device is not charged properly?
  — Limited charging points will be available through the Library
— Can I use my device for other uses?
  — The device is yours and can be used as you see fit, so long as it is supporting your learning, is being used within the School’s protocols, and does not affect the provision of resources required by Meriden.
— Who pays for any damage or warranty issues?
  — You are totally responsible for your device and all warranty, damages and/or loss are your responsibility.
— Do I need to purchase any other items?
  — You only need to purchase the tablet with the required apps and etexts. There are some recommended accessories you may purchase.