



## HEALESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

### Notebook Computers for Students Program (NCSP)

*"In today's technology-rich environment, integrating ICT into teaching and learning will better equip young people with real skills for the future."*

#### Introduction

Healesville High School is excited to embark upon the biggest technological change in the history of the school. Next year all students will be able to access the Notebook Computers for Students Program (NCSP) that will provide students the opportunity to have their own portable, low cost notebook computer for their 'anywhere, anytime' use.

The school has developed a program that will provide the best ICT access for all students and give our students the greatest opportunity to meet their educational potential. The NCSP combines unprecedented eLearning opportunities with excellent teaching and learning pedagogy as well as innovative curriculum design.

Healesville High School will purchase portable computers and for a small charge to parents, will be allowing our students to keep their computer for three years. Students will have the computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week for use at school and at home. The provision of software, maintenance, technical support and warranty, as well as the computer, will be covered by this low charge.

This innovative educational program will provide 24/7 access to learning opportunities for all students.

*"Technologies that facilitate the co-creation of knowledge or those that encourage self-discovery and personalised learning opportunities are especially valuable in providing stimulation and creativity to all learners. Using these, students and teachers can access new knowledge, communicate with experts outside the school and tap into resources across geographical boundaries, as well as collaborate with parents and the local community."*

#### The Educational Rationale

1. To equip students with the relevant eLearning tools that best facilitate their learning, the program will:
  - Utilise ICT to better engage students in their learning
  - Foster greater exploration of learning e.g. (subject material)
  - Use ICT to assist students to present their learning in a variety of modes
  - Promote different forms of learning including online collaboration and new assessments

- Use ICT for students to record their progress and to reflect upon their learning
- 2. To use 21<sup>st</sup> Century educational tools to maximise the educational potential of every student
- 3. To prepare students with the ICT skills required in the modern workforce and society.

## The Implementation Plan

- School purchases computers and families enter into a written arrangement making either annual payments for three years or a one-off up-front payment
- Computers remain the property of the school for the duration of the agreement
- Where possible the school will replace current text books with ICT based media rich 'eBooks' that will enhance and engage students in our curriculum
- Current curriculum is being and will continue to be reviewed and updated to ICT rich teaching practices
- Provide students with access to worldwide resources to supplement existing school based material
- Provide students with improved methods to present their work, research or findings.

## The Notebook Computers for Students Program (NCSP) 2010

It is our expectation that families would wish their children to be involved in this innovative initiative. We will be seeking your support for this program.

The school has evaluated a range of computers and has decided upon the following three options from which families can choose.

### Option 1 ACER Aspire Pro Netbook (10.1" screen)

This highly versatile compact mobile computing option offers fast and flexible access to the Internet and a vast array of eLearning resources. It is lightweight, compact and robust. Students will be able to conveniently take this machine wherever they go, allowing 24/7 access to online learning and productivity. At school students will be able to connect seamlessly to the Internet and the school network resources.

Teachers and students will choose to use their computers wherever and whenever it is appropriate to do so. Features such as an inbuilt webcam, Bluetooth connectivity, card reader, 3 USB ports and sound and video facilities enhance student engagement. Interactive online learning has now become easily available. Software provided by the school such as Microsoft Office, photo and sound editing will provide many creative ways for students to demonstrate and share their learning. With at least 6 hours battery life charging at school will be unnecessary. This is a machine that students will be able to use at school and at home easily and happily.

Dimensions: 260mm (W) x 185mm (D) x 33.4mm (H)

Weight: 1.18kg.



## Option 2 ACER Aspire Timeline Netbook (11.6" screen)



The Timeline is the latest addition to the ACER series. It is similar to the Netbook Pro 10.1 (Option 1) but with some important added features. It has a larger screen and a full size keyboard. It is a faster machine with a larger hard drive (250Gb).

Whilst both machines offer students and teachers the same flexibility and creative potential, the Timeline, as the more

powerful machine, offers parents and students value into the future.

Dimensions: 284mm (W) x 198mm (D) x 25.4mm (H) Weight: 1.2 kg.

## Option 3 Apple Macbook

The Apple Macbook offers all of the advantages of high speed access to the World Wide Web and school learning resources, as well as including a suite of Apple productivity software called iLife.

This computer, whilst larger than the ACER Notebooks, is designed to be portable and light enough to carry to and from school comfortably. It has a 13.2" screen and an optical disc drive. It has the advantage of being a full size laptop whilst still allowing 24/7 use.

It is easy to use, being intuitive in its operation and at the same time capable of powerful presentation. It will appeal to students who wish to extend their ability to present their work in a range of media.

Refer appendix to this information pack for full specifications of each model.

Dimensions: 325mm (W) x 226mm (D) x 27mm (H) Weight: 2.27kg.



## Cost to Parents

In order to introduce and sustain this program the school has created the following parent contribution scheme. It is based on a 3 year model that will ensure all students can receive the best support for both hardware and educational needs, whilst taking advantage of the opportunities that access to a computer on a 24/7 basis will provide.

Year 7-10	*One – Off Upfront Payment	OR	3 x Annual Payments			Total
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
<b>Option 1</b> Acer Aspire One Pro Netbook	\$660	<b>OR</b>	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$690
<b>Option 2</b> Acer Aspire Timeline 1410T Netbook	\$880	<b>OR</b>	\$305	\$305	\$305	\$915
<b>Option 3</b> Apple MacBook	\$1410	<b>OR</b>	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$1440

*\*All families may opt for a 'one – off' upfront payment instead of the three year payment plan.*

**The program is also available to VCE students. However, parents will need to pay the equivalent of the three year amount over two years if the student is in Year 11 or the full amount (one-off upfront payment) if in Year 12.**

This cost *includes* allowances for the following items:

- Basic unit
- School logo skin, individually labelled with student name
- Technical support
- Imaging/service agreement with the school and suppliers
- Inclusion of school software
- A charger for use with the unit.
- Holiday support for your computer
- 3 year warranty
- Option 1 (Acer Aspire One Pro) will have complimentary upgrade to 2GB memory (normal cost \$35)

### Optional extras

- Additional insurance
- Solid carry case – it is strongly advised that a compact briefcase be purchased for options 1 and 2. The school is able to organise a bulk purchase of *Everki 10" Advance Compact Briefcases* for a cost of \$25 per unit. It is also strongly advised that a hard case, at a cost of \$50 be purchased for the Apple MacBook. Again, the school will be able to organise a bulk purchase of an appropriate case, an *Acer Aspire One 11.6" Hard Case*.

At the conclusion of the agreement parents will have several options, as follows:

#### **Option A**

Return unit – no charge to parents.

#### **Option B**

Return unit and enter further agreement for new unit.

#### **Option C**

Purchase unit for a nominal cost.

## Support and Service Provision

To maintain and service the increased number of computers that this new program will bring to our school, we have designed a process to provide the best possible outcomes for all students. The process will occur from the beginning of the school year 2010.

### Training

When receiving computers at the beginning of 2010, all students and parents will be required to attend training sessions that will assist in the care and basic use of your computer. By spending this time on familiarisation with the particular computer, we would expect to minimise the number of disruptions that may occur during the school year. These training sessions and dates will be advertised toward the end of 2009 and will be essential for all members of the school community. They will cover topics such as the following:

- Caring for your Notebook
- How to log in at home
- Setting up for your home network (Basic Guide)
- Basic programs that we will use for education.

### Service Malfunctions 2010

From the beginning of 2010 Healesville High School will offer a 'NCSP Service Desk'. This 'Desk' will act as the central point for all enquiries and service requests in regards to the school's Notebook Computers for Students Program. The desk will be staffed during school hours by trained non teaching staff. In addition to this service, our suppliers will provide support for hardware during non-teaching periods. For all computer support during non school periods, parents will contact our suppliers. All relevant contact details will be provided in due course.

Students should report to the 'NCSP Service Desk' with all malfunctions. Upon presenting their computer to this desk the following steps will apply:

- Initial assessment
- A receipt will be issued
- ***Please note that students must take full responsibility for having backed up all of their data. The school will not take responsibility for lost student data caused by hardware or software malfunctions***
- Swap unit may be issued depending upon issue and time needed to repair
- Test undertaken to determine whether it is a software or hardware fault
  - Software faults will result in units being reimaged and computer returned to student
  - Hardware malfunction will be assessed
    - If covered under warranty the fault will be repaired and the computer returned to student
    - If not under warranty the unit will be repaired and parent billed
      - Unit returned to student upon payment
- If a swap unit has been issued it is returned to the school
- All paperwork related to the service will be sent home to parents, and copied and filed at school.

**All parents should note that there are damages that will not be covered by warranty. Non warranty items include cracked screen, keyboard damage, broken hinges etc. The school encourages families to purchase a sturdy and solid carry bag and to consider insurance. Please refer to 'costs' section of this information pack for cost of carry bags.**

## Software

Each year the school will re-image all student computers in conjunction with our suppliers. The purpose of this will be to ensure that all software is updated and to remove any unwanted / unnecessary software for the coming year. This will take place in Term 4 on a class by class basis and will result in computers being unavailable for those students for a few days. (We would hope the process would take less than 3 days).

At all times students will need to take full responsibility for backing up their own data. Before this re-imaging process it is essential that students make backups of any files they wish to keep that are located on their computer. The school will not take responsibility for lost data during this re-imaging process.

**Notebooks will be returned to students once payment has been received for the following year.**

The basic image will be constructed to include Microsoft Office and a range of educational creative software designed to maximise the overall effectiveness of the Notebook Computers for Students Program.

## Important Dates

<b>19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parent Information session 7.30pm at the school
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Repeat Parent Information session 7.30pm at the school
<b>30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parents complete commitment & authorisation form <b>and</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign agreement for entry into the program <b>and</b></li><li>• Parents sign authorisation for direct debit payment of first year's charge/ or one-off upfront payment <b>or</b></li><li>• Payment received for first year's charge/or one-off upfront payment <b>or</b></li><li>• 50% deposit of first year's charge received</li></ul>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	School places order for computers
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Balance (50%) received</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Parents and students collect computers and attend preliminary training session.