



## The Transition to Pen-Based Computers

Saint Stephen's College is moving to pen-based laptop computers (computers that have a tablet form factor). This is a planned transition to leverage the development of more pen-based devices and the reduction in price of the devices.

Why are we moving to pen-based devices?

This decision has not been taken lightly. It has been taken after careful consideration of existing research and many months of practical use of these devices. The educational benefits are our priority.

### Research

Research has highlighted how the brain works, how we can effectively interact with computers, and the tools that can assist creativity, etc.

Much of this research has been done by Sharon Oviatt. The Design of Future Educational Interfaces highlights and explains of this research.

Computers of the past have been constrained in many ways, but as technology has improved and costs have reduced, the goal of having computers that are more aligned with the way we work has been realised.

If you would like more information, a short (15 minute) [video presentation is available](http://bit.ly/2KI0TKt). (<http://bit.ly/2KI0TKt>)



### Preparation of teaching staff

Saint Stephen's College provides all teachers with Microsoft Surface Book pen-based computers with detachable screens. We continuously train teachers on the use of this type of device, and the educational features and benefits of digital ink. This means that when students move to pen-based computing, they will have staff who are comfortable with the technology to enhance learning, and who can guide students in use of this transformational technology.

### Student Use

Children naturally like to interact with touch screens and digital ink. Students in Years 5 and 6 use their pens and digital ink extensively, and they opportunities to use this style of learning is facilitated as students progress through Secondary. OneNote Class Notebook is used by teachers as the best method to use digital ink through the learning process.

What types of pen-based devices are available?

The best device is the Surface range (Books and Pros). Other brands are suitable but may not provide the best pen experience. The cost of these devices has been falling, and they have now reached the point where they are competitive with conventional laptops by premium device manufacturers.

Please refer to the BYOL policy documents to understand the BYOL specifications criteria and purchasing advice.