



19 October 2011

Dear Parents/Guardian

**Re: Technology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning: The next step in the Senior School (7-12)**

The School has a long and proud tradition of seeking to achieve the best academic outcomes possible for each student. This commitment dates back to when the School was established in 1959 and few could have imagined at that time how the way students learn would change in a relatively short period of time.

As society and technology have changed the School has not been content to rest on its reputation as a school where students achieve a high level of academic success. To have done so would not have been in the best interest of our students and would not have prepared them well for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Teaching and learning practices continue to evolve, particularly as we see rapid changes in technology. Opportunities to access information and the way students can demonstrate and publish evidence of their learning are expanding through developments in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In such an environment it would be irresponsible not to adapt good teaching practice to take advantage of these resources.

**From Term I 2012, each student in Years 7 to 12 will be required to have their own portable ICT device for use in classrooms.**

This change in practice coincides with the closure of the Library for most of Term I, 2012. The upstairs section of the library building (The Goodhew Research Centre) is closing while essential repairs, maintenance and refurbishment take place. The physical library will be temporarily located elsewhere in the Junior and Senior Schools and Library staff will be available as usual to support students and teachers in their learning. The virtual library will continue to provide services as usual. The closure of the building will be inconvenient in the short term but the end result will be a repaired building and a transformed library that will provide for the needs of our students well into the future.

The temporary closure of the building means that lessons, previously scheduled in the Library to access information through ICT, will not be possible. Our vision and planning for some time has been to shift access to digital information from the physical library to the classrooms. The establishment of the wireless network now makes this possible and the temporary closure of the Library marks the next stage of this process.

Our research suggests that a majority of students already have access to their own portable ICT devices which can access the School's wireless network anytime and anywhere on the campus.

For students that do not have access to a portable ICT device, the following options are available:

- Obtain a portable ICT device through private sources
- Purchase or lease a portable ICT device through a retailer offering special prices and service, negotiated by the School, for TIGS families. Further information is available on the School website and at the coming information evenings



- For families where this requirement will prove difficult in the short term, the School has access to a limited number of older but still functional portable ICT devices which will be made available to families upon request at no cost

We believe that students should use the device with which they are most comfortable and with which learning will be most effective. Recognising the importance of choices, we are not recommending specific brands and models of ICT devices. Instead, we are specifying the minimum requirements to which each device should conform. These can be found on the technology tab of the TIGS website: [www.tigs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tigs.nsw.edu.au).

Additional questions may be directed to Ms Leanne Windsor, Director of Information Services, or sent through the support link on the technology page of the TIGS website.

Information sessions are also planned to assist parents. These sessions are designed to provide further information and an opportunity to ask questions.

Year 7, 2012, Parent Information Evening (6.00pm to 8.00pm in the IGC)	Monday 24 October 2011
Afternoon meeting (4.00pm in the Library)	Wednesday 26 October 2011
Evening meeting (6.00pm in the Library)	Tuesday 1 November 2011

We are committed to maintaining excellent outcomes in teaching and learning. Portable ICT devices are not seen as an alternative to good teaching and learning. Placing the technology of choice into the hands of our students provides opportunity for individualised learning, increases independence and promotes self initiated learning within and beyond the classroom.

A significant initiative such as this will inevitably create some unexpected challenges. Please do not hesitate to bring any concerns to our attention.

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding as we embrace 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning at TIGS.

Yours faithfully

**Stephen Kinsella**  
**Headmaster**