Dear Parents,

Gleneagles Secondary College is committed to providing your child with a rich and engaging learning experience using technology at school in 2015 and beyond.

Advances in technology have provided new opportunities to connect, to show understanding, to think creatively, to problem solve and to work collaboratively. We believe that students accessing technology through a 1-1 computer program will positively engage your child in these learning opportunities and support improved learning outcomes.

Gleneagles started a 1-1 netbook program in 2011 with federal funding grants which enabled the successful introduction of netbook computers for each student in Year 10-12 from 2011 until this year. Unfortunately, these federal government funds are no longer available to provide no-cost to family options and an alternative program needed to be implemented.

Since September 2013 the Gleneagles ICT committee and E-learning committee have been investigating possible solutions that meet the diverse needs of our school community and enabling rich learning experiences for your child. We have researched many schools, consulted with Department of Education IT experts and investigated the merits and limitations of various 1-1 program models and devices.

This research and committee recommendations were discussed with the Gleneagles School Council on Monday the 4\textsuperscript{th} of August where questions and issues were addressed about the recommended model of a 1-1 Managed Device program. On 15th September Gleneagles school council ratified the decision for the 1-1 program, the recommended vendor to supply devices (EduNet), the specific device recommendations and the 1-1 computer implementation plan.

The computer that was selected is a Tablet PC (also known as an ultrabook convertible), which is an innovative form of ICT that has the following benefits:

- the use of a stylus enables pen-based input. This enables students to draw, annotate and personalise their study notes
- compact size, ease of transport and design means it can be used in almost any learning situation. Runs Windows 8.1
- the long battery life will allow it to be used all day at school without recharging
- a device that could possibly (in future) be a replacement for paper textbooks and alleviate the need for so many textbooks to be carried around in student bags
- a common tool for each student that would meet most of their day to day technology needs and that would help engage students in learning 24/7
- a device that would be easy to use and support over the next 3 years. The level of interactivity with the touch screen and multiple modes of use will support innovative learning opportunities not possible with other forms of ICT
In essence, the Tablet PC is the ideal device for anywhere, anytime learning.

This type of computer has been specifically selected to provide students with 24-7 access to a wide range of digital learning resources incorporate touch technologies and stylus (pen) which enable students to write, draw and annotate directly onto their screens as well as traditional keyboard entry. Combined with software tools such as Microsoft OneNote students have access to a powerful 21st century exercise book where students can add rich multi-media such as video and other digital resources such as images and PDF’s to enhance their learning.

In recent years teachers at Gleneagles have continued to successfully incorporate online collaboration and digital learning tools into their teaching programs, and we believe a 1-1 learning environment (where every student has continuous access to a personal computer) will further enhance these successful learning outcomes.

With this great opportunity comes clear expectations about students’ use and care of the device. Students must use their computers in a mature and responsible way, consistent with our core values and policies.

All Year 7 and 10 students (2015) will be asked to purchase a Lenovo tablet PC; at a cost of between $750 & $1400. Year 11 and 12 students (2015) will have the option to continue to use their Dell netbook computer or buy into this new program. We recognise this is an additional expense for families and we have worked hard to reduce the cost of the program. We are also aiming to have all new devices delivered pre-Christmas. These digital learning opportunities are critical in the 21st century, preparing students for the modern workplace; unfortunately, the funding provided by state and federal governments is insufficient to provide the IT resources to support the learning for student at Gleneagles.

The exact model, specifications and all relevant details can be found at the Gleneagles website www.gleneagles.vic.edu.au. Please go to the Quicklinks section of the website on the left hand side of the page to access the 1-1 computer program booklet for more information.

**We will be hosting parent information evenings at Gleneagles Secondary College:**

- Year 7 (2015) on Mon 6th October from 7pm – 8.30pm (Shed)
- Year 11 & 12 (2015) on Tues 7th October from 7pm – 8.30pm (Library)
- Year 10 (2015) on Wed 8th October from 7pm-8.30pm (Shed)

During the parent information evening we will demonstrate the different device options, discuss payment options, insurance options and other relevant information. Parents will have an opportunity to examine the devices and ask questions of Gleneagles staff and EduNet staff.

Yours sincerely,

Heath McGregor
Leading Teacher – ICT Pedagogy
19/09/2014