ICT STRATEGY FOR MANOR LAKES P-12 COLLEGE (2012 – 2014)

What we believe:

At Manor Lakes P-12 College we believe that today’s students think, connect and communicate differently to students who were at school in the past. We are aware that our students live in a world where information can be accessed and shared quickly over the Internet, where they can communicate with peers and create new knowledge in an instant. As educators we need to embrace this technology as much as possible to give our students the greatest teaching and learning opportunities that we can.

At our college we are keen to inspire and engage this new generation of learner, known as a Digital Native, with today’s tools and assist them in reaching their full potential in all areas of the curriculum. We want our students to strive for excellence through a personalised learning program that integrates the curriculum and fully exploits the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Context:

1:1 Laptop Program

A decision was made prior to the college opening in 2009 to initiate a 1:1 Laptop Program in the secondary sector to ensure that our college became a leader in ICT Teaching and Learning practices in this area. The device that was chosen for the 1:1 Program was the Apple MacBook due to its extensive range of applications (Microsoft Office Suite, iMovie, iPhoto, GarageBand, iWeb, Keynote and Pages applications) and ease of use in a teaching, learning, and technical management perspective. Another reason for the decision to use MacBooks as the device was that they could be used as a dual platform device and be operated in the Mac or Windows environment. This device was co-leased by the parents of the students and the school. Some laptops have been leased for three years and others for two years. Software has also been continually updated at no extra cost to families (as well as hardware checks) and this usually takes place during holiday periods, usually twice per year.

DEECD iPads for Learning Trial

During 2010 we were approached by DEECD and asked if our college was interested in becoming part of a State Wide iPad trial to investigate and assess the benefits that this mobile device can have for teaching and learning.

The DEECD iPads for Learning website states: “Technology-rich education increases student engagement, participation and excitement and enables anywhere, anytime learning! Here at the Victorian Department for Education and Early Childhood Development, we have a great focus on the effective use of technology for education. This is why we, with support from Apple Corporation, are examining how iPads can be best used for
education. An Australian first, our iPads for Learning trial will examine the impact iPads have on our students’ learning at home and at school, as well as how iPads can benefit and transform teaching practice. This trial builds on evidence that engaging and innovative learning environments are needed to connect with today’s students and equip them for tomorrow’s world. The iPads for Learning trial will help bridge the gap between the technology used by students in day-to-day life and that used in schools. As part of the trial, over 700 iPads have been distributed to students at nine selected schools and the Royal Children’s Hospital Education Institute. Students use their iPads with wireless Internet access at school, and while at home they can use their iPads with or without Internet access. Students can load their own apps onto the iPad to supplement the suite of specially selected apps that we have chosen. We selected these apps to complement existing technologies and programs already used by our Victorian government school community.”

As a college we received approximately 100 iPads for our Yr 5 cohort in 2010 (the iPads have since followed the students into Yr 6), and 10 iPads for use in our Eildon Learning House for students with learning disabilities. The DEECD trial, which concludes at the end of 2011, has been we feel, a revelation in regards to the teaching and learning that has taken place amongst the Yr 6 cohort of students. It has been outstanding to see the students in this area develop their knowledge via the teaching of the VELS curriculum through the assistance of these great learning devices. A greater picture of how the students have reacted to the iPads can be found here: [http://goo.gl/crnhC](http://goo.gl/crnhC)

From recent research findings and evaluation conducted world wide, there is a great push for the iPad device to be utilised in the senior secondary years of a student’s schooling life as well as throughout their university journey. The fact that students have access to anywhere, anytime learning via a device that can be carried around with ease, including full access to the Internet, to all necessary textbooks in the form of ePub Files and eBooks, and to highly creative digital Applications available to them, makes a strong argument for the optimum suitability of this device with senior secondary students.

**NSSCF Funding**

As the DEECD website states: “The National Secondary School Computer Fund (NSSCF) is a key component of the Australian Government’s $2.4 billion Digital Education Revolution initiative. The program will run until 2013 and will be delivered to Victorian government schools with students in Years 9-12 through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). The principle objective of the NSSCF is to achieve a computer-to-student ratio of 1:1 for Year 9-12 students by 31 December 2011. Under Rounds 1, 2 and 2.1 of the NSSCF, Victorian government secondary schools have been directly provided with $52.7 million for the purchase, deployment and support of more than 44,000 desktop, notebook and netbook computer devices in order to achieve an interim computer-to-student ratio of 1:2 for students in Years 9 to 12. DEECD will provide additional funding to schools to move from a 1:2 computer-to-student ratio to 1:1 over 2010 and 2011. Funding has also been provided by the Commonwealth to contribute to the costs associated with effectively deploying and supporting each additional computer under the NSSCF, including funding for technical support, software, security, electricity, data centre and networking costs.”

(NB - In writing this strategy, an assumption is made that a similar funding source from the government will be available to funds computers for secondary students.)

Under the above funding model, schools will see students in Yrs 9-12 receive $1250 for the purchasing of a 1:1 device for students in these year levels. DEECD states that schools can only purchase devices from a specified list, which includes mainly Netbooks, all of which are Windows/PC machines. Schools can also purchase Apple MacBooks, however a business plan needs to be submitted and checked via ITD (Information Technology Department of DEECD), to ensure that the Apple MacBook is the correct device for each setting. Unfortunately, the iPad device is not on the list (unlike the other 7 states and territories) and therefore cannot be purchased with the funding at this present time.
Schools have been asked to spend approximately $600 of the allocated funding for a device, with the remainder to be spent on support for the 1:1 Program (ie. laptop trolleys, cases and covers, electricity costs, storage, etc.)

As a college our only viable option is to purchase the Apple Macbook for our students as our Network and Server configuration is suited to Apple Core Technologies, as well as being a device that students and staff are already familiar with using.

**Developing an ICT Strategy:**

The main reason for creating a whole college ICT strategy is to ensure the ICT structures that we put in place in the next couple of years best support student learning and are financially viable for the future of the college. Currently, our 1:1 Laptop program operates under a leasing system whereby parents and the college share the costs accordingly, which is currently $380 per year. As a college the current leasing arrangement is not a financially viable option, especially as our college grows and the costs associated with this program become greater.

One option that has been discussed to combat the above issue for our college is to use the Apple iPad as a device to assist with the current ICT teaching and learning programs we currently have in place. With iPad being a cheaper device than a MacBook, yet still has the core features of a laptop device, we see that the iPad certainly has a greater viability at Manor Lakes College.

Since our iPad trial commenced we have also noticed a large and positive shift in a technical sense when comparing the two devices. Of the 150 iPads we currently have as a college we have sent three for repair during our DEECD trial time. Two of these iPads have been warranty related issues, meaning a fault with the device has occurred and has not been the fault of the user. The repairs and damages that have been sustained in relation to our current 1:1 MacBook cohort has been significantly larger, not taking into consideration the amount of device differentiation. We have also witnessed a larger reduction in inappropriate behaviour by students using the iPad device compared to that of the MacBooks.

As a college we have found the iPad to be an excellent device for teaching and learning, and although not believing that it can replace a MacBook, it does have particular advantages over a laptop as a teaching and learning device, in our setting.

**Consultation Process:**

In 2010, the college’s finance committee raised issues regarding the ICT strategy and the finances needed to support the strategy. These issues were referred to College Council where it was decided that a sub group of Council would be formed to include all stakeholders in order to make recommendations to College Council of the ICT Strategy for 2012-2014.

The sub group met on Wednesday 25th May 2011, and were given background information regarding the decisions made in the past regarding ICT, and the implications for our plans for future years, including our inability to maintain funding level from school and NSSCF arrangements. The group then had the opportunity to offer suggestions and ideas for the development of the ICT strategy. A question posed to the group was “What would you like to see happen in years P-12 in ICT at the college over the next four years?” The comments were recorded, and later sent out to all sub group members. The membership of the sub group were College Council members, teaching staff members, principal class team members, ICT leading teacher, regional Ultranet coach, school ICT technicians, DEECD TSSPs, Mac 1 representatives and Apple representatives.
Subsequent to the May meeting, a smaller sub group of college staff (ICT leading teacher, PCT and technicians) have developed recommendations to College Council (sent out for feedback to Sub Group on 27th July, 2011 and presented to College Council on 3rd August, 2011). A ratification of the ICT Strategy for 2012-2014 will be sought on the meeting of 3rd August, 2011 so that communication to parents regarding this strategy and its implication is timely.

**Financial Summary:**

**2012:**

The college will purchase MacBooks for students in year 10. There will be no financial layout for parents, and the school’s NSSCF money will cover the cost of purchase. The NSSCF money however, will not cover other supports such as networking costs, technical support, etc. A business plan will need to be submitted to DEECD. We will work with other schools such as Matthew Flinders Girls College in Geelong to develop this business plan.

Parents of students in year 8 and 9 will continue to co-lease MacBooks with the college. Parents will be asked to contribute $380 for 2012.

Parents of students in year 6 and 7 will be asked to purchase, or part purchase iPad for 2012 and pay the remainder of the cost in early 2013.

**2013-2014:**

The college will obviously outlay money to purchase/lease computers and other ICT tools for teaching and learning for classrooms, however the 1:1 device will be purchased or part purchased by parents. The money that the college outlays for the purchasing of iPads will be recuperated in time from parents, and this will be a welcomed financial strategy for College Council.

**Recommendations for 2012 - 2014 Strategy (3 year plan) :**

Below is the ICT strategy recommendation for Manor Lakes College based on current 1:1 laptop leasing arrangements as well as current ICT provision across the college for 2012 - 2014. NB: The following recommendations are subject to review and change.

**2012:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
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<th>Yrs 8, 9 &amp; 10</th>
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<td>Classroom MacBooks - Numbers per class in years 3-5 will increase from 4 to 6, and possibly 8. IWBs will also be dispersed throughout these cohorts, providing funding via ICT budget. 1:2 Investigating moving away from current IWB leasing arrangements and purchasing our own IWBS. These will be Mimio Devices at a cost of approx. $2100 each.</td>
<td>1:1 iPad Program in Yrs 6 and 7. The iPads will be funded through either: - purchasing their own via retail outlet - purchasing via the college at 0% interest through Apple These devices will be student owned and managed. All damage costs incurred will be at parental expense.</td>
<td>1:1 Laptop Program in Yrs 8 and 10. Yr 8 and 9 laptops will be part of our current leasing program, at a parental cost of $380 per year.* Yr 10 laptops will be funded as part of the NSSCF funding.</td>
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*Currently investigating buyback options for machines at the end of their lease (for home use only).
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**Communication Strategy:**

The ICT leading teacher and principal will present recommendations to College Council for ratification on the 3rd August, 2011. If recommendations are approved, initial information will be given to grade 5 and grade 6 parents informing them of the College’s decision to purchase iPads. New enrolments in year 6 and year 7 (2012) will be informed of the 1:1 iPad program.

Detailed documentation and information will then be given to parents in due course, informing them of payment plans for the purchase of iPads and the co-leasing arrangements for MacBooks (year 8 & 9 - 2012).

**Support Centre Classes:**

In keeping with the College’s culture of inclusion, students in the Support Centre classes will in most cases access ICT devices as per the regular school, however this will be dependent on the learning needs of each student and there may be some difference or modifications to the ICT access and devices in some Support Centre classes. Decisions regarding the access to ICT devices in the Support Centre will be made at the
beginning of term one each year, with input from parents, teachers, school leaders and allied health professionals during Student Support Group (SSG) meetings.

**Additional Recommendations/Comments:**

College Council will need to review the ICT Strategy at the end of term 2, 2012 and possibly make minor changes. There may be changes to the NSSCF guidelines, or they may be an introduction of another ICT device that may support our teaching and learning at the college. Another possible reason to review the strategy may be the inclusion of the iPad on the DEECD approved list of devices available to purchase under the NSSCF guidelines.

**Research Links:**

- iPad Implementation at Nanyang Girls School (This school actually visited us early in 2011)
  [http://ictforeducators.com/2011/05/ipad-implementation-at-nanyang-girls.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%253A+IctForEducators+(ICT+For+Educators)]

- Reasons to use Digital Textbooks
  [http://www.technologybitsbytesnibbles.info/archives/4559?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%253A+technologybitsbytesnibbles%252FAZit+(Technology+Bits%252C+Bytes+%2526+Nibbles+from+Cyndi+Danner-Kuhn)]

- 1:1 iPads in Michigan

- iPads set to replace school textbooks
  [http://www.21stcenturyfluency.com/blogpost.cfm?blogID=1733]

- iPad officially passes the higher education test
  [http://www.fastcompany.com/1727292/apple-ipad-officially-passes-the-higher-eduction-test-exclusive]

- Higher Ed iPad pilot projects
  [http://ipadpilots.k12cloudlearning.com/]

- Queensland’s Redlands SC iPad Trial
  [http://ipad.redlands.qld.edu.au/home/general-information]

- West Moreton Anglican College’s Yr 12 iPad Trial
  [http://wmaccommunity.com/wmacipadprogram/about/]

- The 3 R’s get rad with and iPad - Sydney

- iPad usage for people with disabilities

http://ht.ly/3h8u7