"If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow." - John Dewey

Dear Parents,

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction.

In Term 2 this year Prince of Peace Lutheran College launched its P-12 Agile Digital Learning Strategy – Unlocking the Potential. One of the most significant elements of this strategy, Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), began as a pilot program in Year 3G, 5S and 6R on the Junior Campus and Year 10 on the Senior Campus.

Throughout this pilot the students were encouraged to bring their own mobile technology devices to school to engage in learning in new ways. The attached document explains the finer details of the BYOD aspect of our Agile Digital Learning Strategy. This purpose of this pilot was to explore allowing students to use their own personal devices to extend their learning opportunities within and beyond the classroom walls and to test the readiness of the College infrastructure for the launch of voluntary BYOD in 2016.

In 2016 Prince of Peace will be continuing with the roll-out of its Agile Digital Strategy in line with the initial timelines outlined earlier this year. In 2016 the voluntary stage of our BYOD program will be carried out. This means all students from Years 3 to 12 are able to bring their own device to school in line with the College specifications which you will find outlined in the attached document.

BYOD will allow students to use their own personal device for instructional purposes under the supervision and direction of the teacher. In the document attached the advantages of BYOD are highlighted as are the specifications required by the College. We are very excited about the possibilities that BYOD has brought to the learning environment as part of the P-12 Agile Digital Learning Strategy pilot in 2015. We look forward to partnering with you as we continue this exciting journey together.

Following this letter is a document which outlines some important findings from our 2015 pilot. We hope this information is helpful to you and wish to reiterate that if you are looking to purchase a new device for your child for 2016 that the advice below is what we strongly recommend.

We look forward to partnering with you as we continue this exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Valencia
Head of Campus P-6

Michelle Nisbet
Head of Campus 7-12
Important Advice in preparing for voluntary BYOD in 2016

Our pilot so far has seen students bring a range of devices to school from iPads to Androids and laptops. The consensus has been that the strategy and devices have all worked well and relatively seamlessly once connected to our wifi system. The most significant feedback we have received from the teachers involved in the pilot has been around iPads.

While iPads have proven to be very useful in some domains, there are times when the lack of ‘Flash’ compatibility is an issue. Teachers and students have negotiated this very well by pairing students together or borrowing school devices as needed, however, if you should be looking to purchase a brand new device for 2016, our recommendation would be to purchase a good slimline laptop or dual function notebook (ie: it can be both a touch screen or a laptop). The students who have brought a laptop or notebook have had a very seamless integration of their devices into the classroom.

The College will continue to support the use of iPads in 2016 as we are aware that many families have these readily available to bring for the voluntary roll out. However, it should be noted that from 2017 once the Agile Digital Learning Strategy enters its compulsory phase, iPads will not be supported as the primary device for students. All students will be expected to bring a laptop or dual function tablet as their primary device. Further to this, the College has made the decision that Chromebooks will not be supported in this initiative.