



**EMMANUEL COLLEGE**  
*Emmanuel Schools Foundation*

6 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Following my email on 3 July about the Class Technology Solutions (CTS) Easy4U laptop scheme, we have received some queries about the scheme. I wish to make clear that there is no obligation for you to sign up to the scheme and apologise for any confusion that has arisen. Whilst having access to a laptop is helpful in supporting learning, particularly for students in Year 10-13, it is not essential.

If students have access to a laptop at home, they may choose to bring this into school instead of leasing a laptop through the scheme. I have included below answers to questions raised by some of our parents and in sharing these with you, I hope to provide some clarification for all parents and carers.

**Q. Why is Emmanuel College no longer providing laptops for Year 10 and 11 students?**

The laptop scheme we started in September 2020, which provided laptops for Years 10 and 11, has been delivered using the same set of laptops. This provision of laptops, which was at no cost to parents, was part of our response to the Covid pandemic and was supported through the government recovery funding. These laptops are now reaching end of life in terms of their capability to support learning and our access to spare parts to repair them.

**Q. My child is in Year 10 and has a school laptop, do they need to return it before the end of term?**

No. Students that are currently in Year 10 will retain the laptop they have been given and use it for the remainder of their studies. They will return it to College when they take their GCSEs in May 2024.

**Q: Is it essential for students to have a laptop in College or will my child miss out on learning by not having one?**

No. Whilst in recent years they were used increasingly in Year 10 and 11 lessons due to all students having a laptop, it is not essential for students to have a laptop in College as most lessons do not require them. Students in Years 7-9 do not need to bring laptops to school. Where certain courses in Year 10 and 11 require the use of a computer, students will be timetabled in classrooms that provide this facility.

We do encourage parents of all children at Emmanuel College to have a device at home to enable them to engage with homework. However, there is no obligation to have a laptop, and homework shared with students via Microsoft Teams can be easily accessed via a mobile phone and completed in exercise books. We will ensure that all students can access all our curriculum whether they have an electronic device or not. In addition, I would like to remind parents and carers that College is open Monday-Thursday until 5.30pm, and 4pm on Friday, for students who wish to complete homework whilst at school.

**Q. What if I am unable to afford a laptop?**

If your child does not have access to any electronic devices or the internet at home, financial support is available to students. If your child is in the sixth form they can apply for support through the [16-19](#)

[discretionary bursary](#), details of which are on our website. For students in Years 7-10 that are eligible for pupil premium, we will write to you separately to outline the support package we have available should you wish to lease a laptop through the Easy4U scheme.

**Q. Can I purchase or lease my own laptop for my child to use in College?**

Yes, you do not need to use the Easy4U scheme. We do advise students not to bring into school very expensive items, and so would ask you not to purchase a top end or gaming laptop as their security cannot be guaranteed by Emmanuel College. We would ask that students in Years 7-9 do not bring a laptop into school.

**Q. Will secure storage be provided for the laptops within College?**

No, it is the student's responsibility to look after the laptop as it is their own device.

**Q. Will the College provide or install software?**

No. However, Microsoft Office applications are provided free of charge to students while attending an ESF school and we will assist students, where necessary, to install this on their laptop.

**Q. What safeguarding is in place for the laptops.**

While in school, the internet is filtered and monitored for anyone using the College's WIFI. ESF does not provide safeguarding solutions when the device is not on site and it is the parent or carer's responsibility or choice to provide this on devices used at home.

Easy4U have also provided their own frequently asked questions [here](#) for parents interested in the scheme. The decision to enter into a leasing agreement with Easy4U is entirely yours to make. Emmanuel College has no link to the company and receives no remuneration as a result of parental engagement in this scheme.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Ogborn  
**Head of School**