



June 2023

To Parents and Guardians of New Sixth Form Pupils

Dear Parents and Guardians

For the last ten years Caterham School has taken huge steps forward in embracing the digital world and embedding the use of technology into the educational experience of our pupils. We have been acknowledged as an Apple Distinguished School and are visited frequently by schools around the world as an example of good practice in this area. Recently we were named an EdTech50 school, we won the TES Independent Schools Award for 'best use of technology,' and were shortlisted for 'best education initiative' for Digital Inquiry, which was the pre-cursor to the EDGE course your children will undertake as members of the Sixth Form next year.

As we have monitored and improved our offering, it became apparent that the way technology is used at Sixth Form is markedly different than during the first five years of the senior school experience. Whilst the iPad still offers the opportunity for creativity and methods of teaching and learning that complement and exceed the boundaries of the analogue world, more and more A-Level students are using this device in ways that suit their specific subject combinations and demands, and which suit their learning needs.

We are committed to ensuring that the educational experience at Caterham School is supportive, innovative and challenging. Ensuring that our pupils are equipped with a device which best supports this ethos is of paramount importance and in the Sixth Form, we believe that they should have some freedom and choice over what this is. As such, from September 2017, we stopped automatically providing Sixth Form pupils with an iPad and instead have offered them a choice of devices, including buying a second-hand iPad at a greatly reduced cost. For the purposes of compatibility with our existing infrastructure we ask that pupils come to school with an Apple branded device. This could be an iPad or MacBook of any description. Similarly, we ask that all pupils who use an iPad, have a stylus to assist with handwritten input into the device. (The Apple Pencil and Logitech Crayon can be purchased at a discounted price via our supplier portal, details of which can be found below).

We will have a limited supply of second-hand iPads available from the School for £83. These can be purchased on Wisepay, the portal through which most school purchases are made, once you have been sent details of your account in early July.

If pupils wish to purchase a new iPad, Macbook or stylus, we have a limited range of models available for purchase at a discounted price through our supplier portal: <https://store.albion.co.uk/caterham/>. The password for the portal is 'veritas'.

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If your child has an existing iPad or MacBook, they are welcome to use this for school.

Please note, that if your child has opted to do Computer Science at A Level, then we would recommend that they have access to a MacBook. For all pupils using a MacBook, we ask that they also have access to a method of writing directly onto a screen. This can most easily be accomplished through the use of a graphics tablet, which can be purchased inexpensively through Amazon.

The device your child brings into school should be insured and we would highly recommend an insurance policy many of our boarding pupils take up which covers not just electrical equipment (such as laptops and iPads), but also sports equipment. The total value insured is up to £7,500. The cost of this insurance and full details of the policy will be made available via our online admissions platform once pricing for next year has been updated, but please feel free to email finance@caterhamschool.co.uk for further information.

As a school, we firmly believe that giving the Sixth Form choice and ownership over the way in which they learn is integral to our ethos of fostering independent and enquiring minds. Choosing the device that best suits their needs and learning habits is just one part of this journey.

All purchases, whether made through Wisepay or the supplier portal, should be made by the 28 July. Second-hand iPads will be distributed at the start of next term. Devices purchased via our supplier portal (with the exception of a stylus) will be sent directly to your home address.

If you have any questions about this process, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely

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