Dear Parents and Carers,

In 2015, after extensive communication and consultation with the school community, a 1:1 BYOD (iPad) program commenced in 2016 for students in Years 5 and 6. Many documents and policies were created around the development of this initiative and all are available on the school’s website at http://sttap.act.edu.au/byod

After evaluation around the success of the program it has been decided that it will be continuing for Years 5/6 students in the 2017 school year. As such, students commencing Year 5 in 2017 will need to bring with them each day, a personally owned iPad from the beginning of next year. This iPad will be for their own individual use during learning time. iPads will be stored in lockers and students will be required to bring a lock (preferably with a code), to secure their locker.

To support families in this BYOD process we will be holding a BYOD Information Night, 6pm Wednesday 14th September 2016. Families are invited to attend, to ask questions and learn more about the BYOD (iPad) program for 2017. Topics for discussion include: what your responsibilities are in the set-up of your child’s device and how to set boundaries around the use of the iPad at home.

Last year there was two options offered to parents for the supply of iPads for the BYOD (iPad) program. This will again be the case for the 2017 school year:

OPTION 1: Students supply their own iPad
This is the primary supply option for the 1:1 BYOD (iPad) Program. In this option families purchase an iPad for their child’s use at school and home or, use an iPad they already own.

The iPad purchased or currently owned will need to fit the minimum criteria outlined below:

- iPad must be an iPad Air or newer e.g. iPad Air 2, iPad Pro, iPad Mini 2, 3 or 4. (Please be aware that some things such as online NAPLAN will not be supported on iPad Mini devices and that the screen size is considerably smaller than that of other iPad models).
- If purchasing a new iPad, we strongly recommend 32GB or larger to accommodate the storage of multimedia files. (We have found this year that those students whose iPads are 16GB have had many issues with being able to store their work and download required apps)

Families may choose to purchase an Apple Care and Protection Plan when pricing a new iPad, which offers technical assistance and some breakage cover.

At St Thomas the Apostle we do not recommend any particular business to purchase an iPad from. There are numerous vendors both in Canberra and online that you will be able to do this from. Families will need to choose based on the best price and service you can negotiate.
Due to the school purchasing through Apple at the Canberra Centre, Apple can offer a discount to parents who wish to purchase through their store. The Apple Purchasing Portal created for St Thomas the Apostle can be accessed through the school website on the BYOD page.

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**OPTION 2: Students purchase an iPad on a Payment Plan through the school**
Families who are unable to purchase an iPad outright may enter into an agreement and payment plan with the school to purchase a device over a two year period. The school will make the initial purchase of an iPad for those families who take part in the payment plan. Payments for these devices will be processed through the family’s school fees on a cost recovery basis and will be billed over the eight school terms while their child is in Year 5/6. Parents will pay the total purchase price by the end of their eight payments.

The device supplied under this option will be an iPad Air 2, 64GB at a cost of $809.60 inc gst, which includes the purchase of Apple Care and Protection.

Parents are responsible for the care, use, insurance and maintenance of the iPad purchased under the payment plan as soon as they take delivery of it.

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Families under both options will need to provide a suitable iPad case with a stand and a set of headphones for their child’s iPad and a lock for their locker. We ask that you complete the slip below and return it to the school’s Front Office Thursday 13th October 2016.

Kind Regards,

Judy Egan
Acting Principal

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**1:1 STTAP BYOD (iPad) Program 2017 Options Slip**

I/We ______________________________________ parent /s of __________________________
in class ______ will be taking up the following iPad supply option: (please tick one)

☐ OPTION 1: We will supply our own iPad

☐ OPTION 2: We would like to enter into a Payment Plan with the school for the supply of an iPad.
(If choosing Option 2 we will forward you the form “iPad Payment Plan Agreement”. This would need to be returned to the school by Thursday 27th Oct.)

Signed: ___________________________            Date: ___________________