



June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to be able to write to you with the full details of the iPad programme we offer at the Skinners Kent Academy.

Our iPad programme aims to:

- Ensure equality of access to the internet at the Academy and at home
- Prepare students for working and living in a digital age
- Support self-led research and problem solving
- Improve the quality of feedback, home learning and collaboration
- Provide new and innovative ways for students to learn

With the digital world developing so fast, we are extremely proud of our students and teachers innovative use of technology to enhance the Teaching & Learning experience all students have. However, along with this and perhaps one of the most surprising benefits has been the shift in culture to one of a greater level of trust and respect.

Many of our key systems are now centered on this use of technology for staff, students and parents. This includes direct communication via email, a parent portal providing real time access to your child's attendance, behaviour and progress and the setting, recording and submission of Independent Learning. Along with these uses, teachers and students utilise the iPad for learning activities, which provide redefined pathways to subject knowledge and understanding in new, creative, engaging and exciting ways.

Over the past few months we have worked extremely hard to ensure that we are able to offer you the best possible programme in return for your support. The device we are using as from September 2019 is the Apple iPad 128GB.

Each student who joins the programme is provided with the use of the latest iPad, protective case, a range of paid and free apps, insurance and warranty for two years, with full backup and technical support available in the Academy for the duration of the programme, the iPads are also available to take home. In order to be able to offer a programme of this size, complexity and cost, the Academy needs the financial support from parents who wish to join the programme by donating to the cost of the programme on a monthly basis. The iPads remain the property of the Academy throughout the duration of the programme, but there will be the option to own the device at the end of the programme with a small payment reflecting the residual value of the device, this is usually no more than £10.

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We can only run this programme if parents sign up and are prepared to contribute. While a small number of families in difficult circumstances can be accommodated, unless there is widespread support for the programme, then the Academy will not be able to provide it. If you would like to participate in the programme but feel that you are unable to contribute please contact the Academy office.

As a charity, we can enhance your donation by claiming Gift Aid relief so please remember to complete the Gift Aid form. Your Gift Aid support makes our programme more affordable.

Please see the separate sheet of some frequently asked questions for additional information about the iPad scheme. If you have any further questions, please contact the Academy or email finance@skidderskentacademy.org.uk.

It is essential that you read all the information included in this pack and submit the 'iPad Donations Form' back to us via the website by Friday 5th July 2019.

Date for you to collect the iPad

- The iPad must be collected by the Parent/Carer – **NOT** your child.
- This year we are offering two days of iPad deployment. You can choose either date:

Tuesday 3rd September between 8am and 5pm

Wednesday 4th September between 9am and 4pm.

- You will need come to the main reception on Sandown Park.

If you are unable to come on either of those days, please email finance@skidderskentacademy.org.uk, and we can arrange an alternative collection day/time for you.

If we have not received your paperwork prior to the time of deployment, you will not be able to collect an iPad at this time.

Donation details

Uploaded on the website you will find the iPad Programme Donation Form for completion and submitting back to us, please ensure you have read the donation information and the options available to you.

The recommended donation towards the iPad programme is £15 for 24 months or £30 for 12 months or a donation in full of £360.

Set up and iTunes Account

You do not need to set anything up prior to receiving the device. We have been advised by Apple that the ideal way for students to use their iPads is to have their own Apple (iTunes) account. Many students will already have a personal Apple account and we would ask that you allow them to use it on the iPad issued by the Academy. If your child does not have an Apple account and you are unable to create one from home then we will be able to assist you. Please remember Apple accounts cannot be created for children under the age of thirteen, Apple advised us that parents should create an account with their details but use the child's e-mail address. N.B. in order to protect you from unauthorised charging this account should **not** be used in conjunction with a credit/debit card.

As part of our iPad scheme, we may require students to possess particular applications. These will be purchased and deployed to students' iPads by The Academy when necessary.

Should you require any further information then please contact the Academy or email **finance@skinnerskentacademy.org.uk**.