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Executive Principal Dr Hilary Macaulay

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to be able to write to you with the full details of the iPad programme we are offering our new Year 7s at the Skinners' Kent Academy this September 2020.

It is essential that you read all the information included in this letter and then complete and submit the 'iPad Programme Donations Form' on the website by Friday 10 July 2020.

This year, to reduce the number of people coming into the Academy we will be handing the new iPads out directly to the students during their first few days of the term. A comprehensive set up guide will be sent home with the device and we will support the students with any set up issues.

If any information is missing from your form or the bank account details are incorrect we will contact you over the summer to resolve.

If you have not completed the iPad form in full your child will not receive their device.

If there is a reason why you would prefer the iPad to be collected by a parent/guardian, please email us at finance@skidderskentacademy.org.uk and we can arrange a collection day/time for you to come in to the Academy from week beginning 7 September.

Donation details

On the website you will find the iPad Programme Donation Form for completion and submission 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 £18.00 per month for 24 months, £36 per month for 12 months or a donation in full of £432.00

Also, on the website you will see the User Agreement Form, please print this off, read and sign it and ask your child to bring it into the Academy, so they can sign it in front of us when we hand over the iPad. We will not issue your child with an iPad without this form.

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 from September 2020 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.

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 and is of no extra cost to yourselves.

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.

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. However, accounts cannot be created for children under the age of thirteen therefore Apple have advised us that parents should create an account with their details but use the child's e-mail address. If your child already has a personal Apple account then 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. Important Note: 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@skidderskentacademy.org.uk