iPad Recommendations for Students

Students at MacKillop Catholic College are required to have an Apple iPad to access our curriculum during their time at the College. As models change each year the model recommendations for student purchase will alter from year to year but whatever model is chosen it will generally suit requirements for a number of years. This is achieved as long as the operating system is kept up to date. When the device can no longer install the latest operating system, or iOS, then that will determine whether it needs to be replaced.

The current (2014/15) minimum recommendation for purchase, from available models, is as follows:

16 Gig WiFi iPad Air*

This now comes installed with Pages, Keynote, Garage Band, Numbers, iMovie and other apps that previously needed to be purchased.

* iPad Air 2 now available but iPad Air is sufficient

* Students are not allowed 3G versions at school as it bypasses our filtering system. If used, then the SIM card must be removed for school use.

What about other models?

Apple do not offer iPad 2/3/4 for purchase anymore but they are still viable and offer good service to the many students who own them. We are happy for students to use them at the College. However, due to the iOS requirements, they will become redundant at some point and will require replacement. Apple does not disclose when that will happen.

The iPad Mini is being used in Primary schools and whilst that is appropriate, we find them not as serviceable for high school. Students report that the screen area is too small for some occasions and as it becomes a text book for many subjects, parents need to decide whether that is appropriate for their student. They will operate and can be configured for the school network but are not recommended, particularly if you need to purchase a new one.