



KING EDWARD VI FIVE WAYS SCHOOL

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Bring Your Own Device [BYOD]

BYOD is an initiative gaining ground in both the corporate and education worlds. Essentially it means allowing connectivity to the school system and Internet via individual devices, not simply the school computer network. Large numbers of students and staff have their own devices, with which they are more familiar and which often include access to different useful 'apps' that will not work on our school system.

We are delighted to announce that with recent work completed by the Computer Services in school, we now have 95% Wi-Fi coverage across the school site, together with increased band width, which allows us to develop this initiative here at Five Ways.

We will begin rolling out a programme of access to the Wi-Fi beginning with the Sixth Form next week. Students will then be able to use their own devices in school. To access the school system they will be given a code and they will then have to complete a log in screen in order to access the school system and Internet. This means that we still have security on the system and the normal filtering will also apply to BYOD. The

For security, we do believe that students need to take special precautions when in public and to keep their devices such as tablets, smartphones etc. out of sight to avoid opportunists and that they bring such devices at their own risk. They also need to remember to keep them locked away when not in use, particularly for PE lessons. We do recommend that a security code is used on devices and that where possible they are named or marked in some way. Students must take responsibility for their own devices and ensure they have appropriate insurance if necessary. Students are also reminded that they are responsible for charging any devices at home and we will not be providing these facilities in school.

Students will only be expected to use such devices in lessons when the teachers have indicated they may do so. Some departments already use such devices in lessons and they have proven of immense value in developing learning, particularly for small group work. This is a further step in the move towards more personalised, anytime/anywhere learning and one which many students are keen to embrace. At Five Ways we do recognise that not all students currently have such devices and no-one will be disadvantaged in their learning if this is the case.

We will be gradually allowing more year groups to participate in the scheme and will keep you informed through this newsletter. If you do have any problems, or questions, please contact Mrs Long at the school.