Chromebooks for Learning

Uckfield College

We are just two years into our Chromebooks for Learning Scheme and yet it is hard to imagine our College was ever without them!

Here at Uckfield College the use of technology is all about excellence in the quality of teaching and learning. Our aim is to give our students a ‘world class’ education and so we are passionate about ensuring every student has stimulating and engaging teaching and learning opportunities every day.

Students are used to having access to the internet at all times, in all places - school should not be the exception. We want our students to have access to the greatest source of information ever assembled and to study in their own innovative and personalised ways.

Our students fully embrace the learning opportunities presented to them via the world wide web, online applications and personalised technology. We know that the use of technology for learning, work and play will be very much a part of your child’s life and so we embrace the need to prepare them fully for that future.

Chromebooks help our students organise, communicate, collaborate, learn and study at home and in school. We believe that individual access to technology is not something that should happen in a few rooms in a school, only on some occasions. It should instead be for everyone, everywhere and at any time; at Uckfield College Chromebooks enable that.

Across the curriculum we make full and effective use of technology for learning; our students need to learn about safe, effective, and productive use of technology learning tools. We are making the educational experience for students at UCTC as varied, dynamic and stimulating as possible.

Almost all of our parents have either opted into the UCTC Chromebook scheme or have provided their child with their own choice of Chromebook. We continue to be extremely excited and proud about the positive impact this development is having on the learning of our students each and every day. I sincerely hope you will share in that excitement as you and your child take your first steps into the engaging and challenging learning journey with us.
Why have we opted for Chromebooks?

- Less than 8 seconds to boot up
- Long battery life
- Simple technology that will just work
- Easy student-teacher workflow
- Large numbers of computers that can be managed centrally
- Excellent collaboration tools
- Works seamlessly with Google Apps for Education (GSuite) and other cloud-based applications. All of our students and teachers already use these applications extensively.
- Multiple users can set up accounts on the device so can be used by family members*(*Unless the option for College filtering at home is selected)

To provide you with the best value for money in terms of both robustness of device and price, we have been through a rigorous and competitive tendering process and I am sure you will agree that what we are now able to offer you represents a super package.

In this parent pack we present precise details of the Chromebook package we have put together for you and we explain how and why the Chromebooks will be used at UCTC.

You can pay for your Chromebook package in full directly through ParentPay, or if you intend to pay monthly then please use the payment form included in this pack. **First payment must be received at the end of August 2017.**
Our Choice of Chromebook

What’s in the Package?

- Dell Chromebook Model 3189 2 in 1
- MAX Explorer Hardcase Bag
- 1 Year Manufacturer Warranty
- 3 Years on-site fixing *
- Locker Padlock

How much will it cost?

Our Chromebook package costs £310.35 if paid for via ParentPay with a one off payment.

Over 12 months via standing order the cost will be £26.86 per month which includes the cost of the Chromebook package plus a monthly £1 standing order processing fee.

The Chromebook scheme is a voluntary scheme and if you would like to opt in but have concerns about meeting this payment commitment please contact our Finance Team on: 01825 764844 EXT: 1253 Email: finance.chrome@uctc.org.uk

* Subject to fair excess for parts* Details in FAQs. PLEASE INSURE FOR LOSS /THEFT ON YOUR HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE

We know you will be as pleased as we are with the device and cost at a time when the pound is so weak.

Schoolyard toughness
From liquid resistant keyboards and clickpads to rubberized base trim and display bumpers to absorb shock from bumps and drops.

Enabling 24x7 learning
Always connected with Wi-Fi 802.11 2x2 + Bluetooth 4.0 Variety of ports to connect to essential learning tools: HDMI, multiple USB ports, combo mic/headset.
The MAX Explorer Bag keeps your child’s device safe. Shock and impact resistant ballistic nylon make up the outer layer of this bag, while the memory foam interior includes hinge and corner security straps to keep the Chromebook in place. The built-in handle and included shoulder strap enable your child to choose the way to carry the bag.

The content filtering, virus protection and security we have in place at Uckfield College is sophisticated. Across the whole campus our internet filters block 100% of illegal material identified by the Internet Watch Foundation and at least 90% of inappropriate internet content in the following categories:

- Adult/Pornography
- Violence
- Race hate
- Illegal drugs
- Criminal skill/activity
- Gambling

On your home network the content settings you have on your Router/Homehub will apply to your Child’s Chromebook and so your child will be able to access internet content that you allow.

If you don’t feel confident with your internet content settings then you can ask us for advice or you can opt into an additional service we offer called ‘Home Content Filtering’. We offer this service for a one off charge of £7 for three years and it will filter internet content in the same way we filter at Uckfield College.

If you opt into the Home Content Filtering service then your child will not be able to access inappropriate content via their Chromebook and they will be prevented from using most social networking services including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. The Chromebook will also be locked to a single user account meaning that only your child will be able to log into the Chromebook.

For further details, please contact:

chromebook@uctc.org.uk

We provide an on-site repair service for the Chromebooks purchased as part of the UCTC Chromebook Scheme. This service runs for three years from the date that your child receives their Chromebook, subject to parts remaining available. We will diagnose problems and as long as the Chromebook is fixable we will carry out necessary repairs as quickly as possible.

If the Chromebook is still under warranty we will arrange repairs/replacement as necessary.

For the more expensive replacement parts there will be a parts charge but no charge for the labour. The cost of parts is as follows:

Screens/Motherboard: £50
All other parts: £10

Our fixing service can only be financially sustainable over time if students keep their Chromebooks in their cases to protect them properly when transporting them around. Additionally, water damage often means a new motherboard and it is a costly repair for both you and the College. Please do discuss with your child regularly the importance of caring for their Chromebook.
The following are examples of what students will use Chromebooks for at UCTC:

- Create, share and collaborate using Suite - a set of online applications for creating presentations, spreadsheets, websites and simple documents which are easy to share and collaborate on.
- Organise their homework and deadlines through Google Classroom.
- Use excellent learning resources from our subscribed learning resource services which include Discovery Education UK, MyMaths and Kerboodle.
- Use digital tools and add-ons to support their research and writing. For example using academic bibliography and citation tools and using read aloud and voice recognition tools to promote independent learning for all.
- Think and behave creatively across their subjects using cloud apps for design, planning, animation, mind-mapping, image editing, sound editing, video recording, map creations, graph and infographic making etc.
- Use UCTC e-library facilities. Students have access to the whole of East Sussex’s library of fiction and non-fiction ebooks. They also have full and free access to Britannica Encyclopedia, a range of Oxford references as well as newspaper archives.
- Use Moodle courses for revisiting lessons and extending their learning further.
- Use the camera/video function to record learning Vlogs, practical project progress reports, experiments and presentations.
- Use subject related apps and extensions in the classroom and at home.
How can you pay?

The Scheme is voluntary to opt into and if you decide to opt in then you can pay in one of two ways:

- Via ParentPay (in full)
- Via Standing Order over 12 months (this will include a £1 per month administration cost).

Maintenance and repairs are included in the Package (subject to fair excess for parts), but this does not cover loss and theft. Some of our parents have chosen to take out their own gadget insurance or have been able to insure the Chromebook for loss/theft on existing home contents insurance policies.

NB: If you want to opt in but have concerns about meeting the payments, or if you have more than one student at UCTC currently in years 7 - 10 and you would like financial assistance, we invite you to contact our Finance Team, in confidence.

When does my child get a Chromebook?

Once a payment has been received, either in full or via the first standing order payment, Chromebooks will be allocated to students during their Computing lesson in the Week beginning the 18th September 2017.

Contacts

For financial enquiries: Email: finance.chrome@uctc.org.uk  
For technical support: Email: chromebook@uctc.org.uk