



CHALLNEY HIGH
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Chromebooks for Learning Parent Handbook 2023 - 2024



Google for Education

Respect • Opportunity • Achievement



CHILTERN
LEARNING
TRUST

Chromebooks for Learning

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to inform you about the 'Chromebooks for Learning Scheme' for Challney High School students. It is an expectation for every student in Year 7, 8, and 9 attending Challney High School to use a Chromebook on a daily basis from September 2023.

We are very excited about the impact this development will have on our students' learning. Chromebooks provide a great vehicle to help our students become responsible digital citizens and lifelong learners. Students will need to be at ease and be confident with rapidly changing technology for their future studies and for their future employment.

The educational experience for our students should be as varied, dynamic and stimulating as possible and we know through our extensive research that this technology will support this goal. Embracing the combination of school and home learning is crucial to the future success of young people. Technology allows learning to be increasingly engaging and enables the school to extend effective learning beyond the classroom.

Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education enable all our students to have access anytime to information wherever they are. The 'Chromebook Scheme' will enable students to learn safely, effectively and productively.

Challney High School for Girls is very well placed for this initiative as over the past couple of years we have started to use Chromebooks in our classrooms and have found them to be a flexible addition. Fast start-up times and long battery life ensure that time for teaching and learning

is maximised. Chromebooks help to ensure that students are engaged and the accessibility features help to ensure that students with specific learning needs can easily access the curriculum. Teachers and Teaching Assistants at Challney High School for Girls were issued with personal chromebooks and training in September 2022 to ensure that they became familiar with them so that they are well prepared to facilitate the learning experience right from the outset of the scheme.

After evaluating many different Chromebooks we have selected a model that is extremely flexible and hard-wearing and offers excellent value for money.

Although we strongly encourage the purchase of a chromebook for your daughter; provision will be made for all students. As a school, we firmly believe in the merits of the scheme and the educational benefits it offers students and expect that parents will want to support the initiative. I hope that you will find all the information you need about our scheme within this parent pack and on our school website, however if you do have any questions you can also contact us via the school email address admin@challneygirls.luton.sch.uk.

Our school's vision is to 'Develop influential women of the future' and to achieve this we need to ensure that the girls have access to the latest technological developments in order that they can become confident and skillful to enable them excel academically and to develop a confidence in the use of technology for their future careers.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Joanne Mylles
Headteacher



This is the package



We are delighted to be able to present you with a choice of Chromebook packages, each one offering you outstanding value for money both in terms of robustness and price.

We have worked hard to ensure that parents are offered the best possible price as we recognise that this is a significant financial commitment.

The Lenovo 300e generation 3 Chromebook has been fully tested within school and is our recommended choice.

We have been through a rigorous and competitive process to recommend these devices. We do not believe you could purchase the whole package cheaper elsewhere.

However, please contact us if you have any questions



The Chromebook package includes:

The Chromebook

The Lenovo 300e generation 3 Chromebook has been selected by the school due to its robust design. It is built to US military standards for toughness as well as being light to carry.

Warranty and Advanced Repair

There is a 3 year return to base warranty included in the package and a 3 year Advanced Repair Cover against accidental damage. There are no limits to the number of repairs and no excess costs for these repairs.

Repairs

If your Chromebook breaks you can arrange repairs/ replacement as necessary via the Chromebook portal on the school website.

Safeguarding

As with all devices where students are accessing their School Google Account every Chromebook will be managed and monitored by the school both on and off site. This ensures that appropriate filters are in place. Of course appropriate use remains a parental responsibility.

Google for Education

How much will it cost?



We have designed the payment schemes to ensure that all students, whatever the situation at home, can benefit from the Chromebook scheme. The overall cost of the package to the school is:

Product	
Lenovo 300e Generation 3 Chromebook	
Management License	
3 years warranty and insurance	
Total	£375.95



How will I make payments?

The Student Chromebook Package can be paid for online via the Chromebook portal on the school website.

During the 3 years of the scheme the Chromebook is the property of the school. After 3 years the Chromebook will be signed over to parents.

Parental contribution

Scheme A

Total cost to parents £375.95

- A one off payment of £375.95

Parental contribution

Scheme B

Total cost to parents £435.84

- 12 monthly payments of £36.32

Parental contribution

Scheme C

Total cost to parents £457.68

- 24 monthly payments of £19.07

Parental contribution

Scheme D

Total cost to parents £474.12

- 36 monthly payments of £13.17

 for Education

Frequently asked questions

Why have we chosen Chromebooks?

There are a wide range of tablet and laptop-style devices available on the market and Challney High conducted extensive research when considering the type of device which would be best suited to students in our school.

A Chromebook looks like a laptop in appearance but operates in a very different way with students accessing services and apps online. The Chromebook operating system is produced by Google who provide a wealth of apps and services which are specifically designed to support students in education.

Chromebook devices boot-up in a matter of seconds and have a battery life that lasts up to 8 hours, dependant on use. Chromebook devices are managed centrally by our IT Support Team to ensure that access is safe and secure. Internet content is filtered for inappropriate content to ensure students can access everything they need for their school work.

Students need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world. Research has confirmed that good home access to technology has a positive impact on a child's educational achievements; it often motivates them to do schoolwork by providing more interesting and engaging ways to learn.

Student work is often better presented so their self-esteem grows and they can explore subjects that interest them in their own time.

Chromebook Features

- Less than 8 seconds to boot up
- Long battery life
- Simple technology
- Easy student-teacher workflow
- Large numbers of computers can be managed centrally
- Excellent collaboration tools
- Works seamlessly with Google Workspace for Education and other cloud based applications which all of our students and teachers already use extensively.

The following are **just a few** examples of what students will do at Challney High School for Girls:

- Create, share and collaborate using Google Workspace
- Use subject related apps in the classroom and at home
- Communicate with others in the school community

We aim to achieve a blended learning experience in our school where chromebooks are used alongside traditional methods of teaching and learning.

Chromebooks should be seen as an additional learning tool and not as a replacement for these methods.

We will train our teachers and teach our students to use these devices productively and appropriately.

When do we get our Chromebook for the academic year beginning September 2023-4?

Once the first payment has been received, Chromebooks will be allocated to students. The collection date will be advised later, but will be early in the Autumn Term 2023.

How do I connect the Chromebook to the Internet in my house?

Chromebooks use wireless to connect to a network so you will need WiFi at home to use the Chromebook on the Internet. If you have WiFi, your network security key can be added to the Chromebook before log-on. If you don't have WiFi at home, the Chromebook will still work for many things (most apps, reading eBooks, etc) but, for example, email and web browsing won't be accessible until the Chromebook is back within the School network.



Frequently asked questions (Continued)

My child already has a different device. Can they use that instead?

No. These are not fully compatible with the Google Apps and add-ons that we will be using for teaching and learning.

- The battery may not last 6 hours on a single charge
- The computer may not boot up within 10 seconds from a closed lid
- The device will not be managed by the school and therefore will not be manageable as a class learning tool.

Did you look at Windows, iPads, Mac, Linux or Android as alternatives?

Yes, very seriously. We believe that iPads are great tools for consuming media but they are not as good for creating content and allowing our students to work collaboratively. Whilst the range of applications available on iPads and Android is vast, many of the resources that teachers currently use in IT Suites would not be available. We also looked at traditional Windows, Mac and Linux laptops. Although these devices are indeed more powerful they are also more complex, more expensive and have poorer battery lifetimes. The simplicity of the Chromebook overcomes these barriers so that the focus will be on learning.

What if my child already has a Chromebook?

There would be difficulties with bringing your own Chromebook into school so this would not be permitted.

Is the battery good enough?

How will charging work?

Chromebooks have a battery life of 8 plus hours. This varies depending on what the Chromebook is being used for (e.g. web browsing is very different to using videos). As long as students charge the Chromebook overnight, it will last all day. Students are responsible for bringing their charged Chromebook to school.

Please note there will be no charging facilities available at school.

Can we have different models to choose from?

In order to achieve the economies of scale with a manufacturer which make this scheme most affordable, we cannot offer a diverse choice of devices, as the numbers taking up each option would be too low.

What technical support will there be for students?

Challney High School IT Support Service will be able to help resolve many technical issues, but one of the major advantages of the Chromebook is that it rarely goes wrong.

Are there any Chromebook guides available?

We will make sure all of our students receive the teaching input to get them up and running with their new Chromebooks when they are issued. Support materials will be available on the pupil Google Site.



Frequently asked questions (Continued)

Will my child need their own Google account? If so, how will the school be able to put apps on the Chromebook?

Your child's Challney High School for Girls account is in fact a Gmail account and this account will be used. The school will use management software to enable it to distribute apps to any Chromebook registered with it and effectively will 'gift' the app to the device.

What is the school going to do with the current IT suites?

We intend to maintain our investment in the IT suites which run specialist software including our suites for, Computer Science and Music. We recognise the importance of IT facilities and continue to invest significantly in this area to maintain an infrastructure that allows students to access high quality resources to support their learning. Our Chromebook scheme will allow students to access online services in every lesson across their timetable.

Who owns the Chromebook?

Legally Challney High School for Girls owns the Chromebook until full payment has been made.

Could we buy a cheaper Chromebook and 'opt out' of the Challney High School for Girls scheme?

No. There are other Chromebooks on the retail market, but we will be bulk purchasing a model that we believe can offer good value for money. We will offer a device we think will be robust and stand up well in a school setting.

Why can't the school provide these devices for free?

With ever tightening budgets the school has a limited amount of funding for ICT in school and this primarily pays for the maintenance of our school network. As we are asking families to pay for the device it will belong to the student and therefore can be used outside of the school day.

What happens if the Chromebook is lost, stolen or damaged?

If a Chromebook is lost or stolen, it is important that it is reported to the school as soon as possible. The Advance Repair Service will cover the Chromebook for theft and accidental damage. Loss is not covered

What about safety on the way to and from school?

Several Trust Schools have had the scheme running for a period of time. There have not been any incidents of Chromebooks being stolen on a students' way to/from school. However, it is sensible to reduce the risk of theft through some common sense measures; students should keep their Chromebook in their bag on the way to and from school, both for road safety and crime prevention reasons. This is advisable if travelling by bus or on foot.

What is Challney High School for Girls doing to reduce e-safety problems with the Chromebooks?

Challney High School has a very effective web filtering system and all devices attached to our network go through this web filter. We will be actively monitoring students' Chromebooks while in school. We will be able to look at web filter logs should an issue become apparent. Student email accounts are restricted to accept internal emails and those from known external providers only. Students are already taught the importance of e-Safety through PDC, IT lessons and assemblies. This will be continually reinforced.



Google for Education

Frequently asked questions (Continued)

How will inappropriate use of the Chromebook at school be dealt with?

Students, with the support of their parents, will be required to sign up to a set of 'Chromebook Rules' which set out some simple rules to make things go smoothly. Some of the rules concern management (e.g. "I will bring the Chromebook to school every day, charged") and some will be about classroom behaviour (e.g. "I will stop using the Chromebook when my teacher asks me to"), with the overall intention of creating a way of operating that all students, parents and staff understand and agree with. Any child that misuses the device in school will have increased restrictions applied to their device.

How will the Chromebook be backed up?

The Chromebook is always backed up and our students have unlimited storage space in the Google Cloud. This is already set up and associated with their Challney High School For Girls email address.



I'm concerned about my child's work being stored with Google, how safe is it?

The data is the property of Challney High School For Girls – Google GSuite customers own their own data, not Google. Google offers customers a detailed data processing amendment that describes their commitment to protecting your data.

As a school we are following DfE and ICO advice in this area.

Google do store and log information but this data is encrypted in transmission and at rest. Google is fully GDPR compliant and they do not share the data.

Can my child put their own content onto the Chromebook (music, video, apps)?

As per the school Acceptable Use Policy, students cannot use the school domain (@challneygirls.luton.sch.uk) to store personal data, music, videos, etc. If they have a personal gmail account they can use this to login to the Chromebook when not on the school premises.

If you have any other questions please contact us at admin@challneygirls.luton.co.uk

Google for Education