

Dear Colleagues,

We just wanted to touch base with you regarding summer procurement and installations. Things are still obviously very different right now for schools and indeed for the ICT Development Service. However, we appreciate that pre-COVID, some schools may have planned to purchase devices and/or upgrade classroom teaching solutions over the summer period. We understand that for some schools, the situation may have changed but also recognise that there will still be a need for others to progress their plans.

As such, we wanted to outline what ICTDS can currently offer. All of the items below can be added to an operational lease agreement should this be your preference or need due to budgetary constraints.

Audio Visual Solutions

Our AV partner CDEC is still providing a full service. As well as working to their own COVID H&S guidelines, they will work with schools to conform to specific school requirements including restricted access times. Having said this, as the summer break period is likely to provide easier access to classrooms, this is an ideal time for installations to be booked. Quotes can be provided for interactive panels (Clevertouch, SMART and BenQ), hall installations (including sound systems), digital signage and visitor management systems.

The summer period is always very busy for AV installations and despite the COVID situation, we still expect that this is likely to be the case. *If you are planning for summer purchases and installations, we would therefore encourage you to contact us as soon as possible to arrange a no-obligation site survey and quote.*

Wireless

Our wireless partners also continue to provide a full service including site surveys and installations. Like CDEC, they will adhere not only to their own COVID-specific guidelines but also any additional constraints you have within your institution. *If you are considering adding more wireless devices (Chromebooks, iPads or laptops) to your school provision and have an older wireless system, we strongly recommend that you request a free quote to upgrade and possibly extend your wireless. If you have our first-generation wireless system (AP105), you will have previously received a letter explaining that your wireless access points go end of support in August. It is particularly important that schools with these systems urgently look at upgrading their wireless provision.*

Building Work/Additional Buildings (including portakabins)

ICTDS works closely with the WCC Major Projects team on larger school building projects. However, we are not always informed about smaller projects; often because there is no perceived ICT implication. This can lead to issues where there is an assumption that the ICT will

'just happen' and of course it usually doesn't. *If you are having any building works including additional temporary classrooms over the summer, please contact us as early as possible to check the ICT implications, any costs involved and timescales.*

Computing Devices

ICTDS continues to offer a wide range of devices for both staff and pupils. Please see the sections below for the different device types with information on availability and installation.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks continue to grow in popularity with Warwickshire Schools. Just under thirty schools now subscribe to our G Suite for Education service with twenty of these having purchased Chromebooks for pupils and staff. Chromebooks are a slightly different way of working but the feedback from schools using them has been very positive with a number ordering additional devices.

Availability of Chromebooks over the COVID period has been somewhat erratic. Our main supplier is expecting significant stock in July and August and is taking advance orders on these devices. Please see our micro site [here](#) for details of the models we currently offer. If you are interested in making a purchase, please contact us for a no-obligation quote.

In the vast majority of cases, Chromebooks require no onsite installation visit. They are pre-configured by our partner and shipped to your school site ready to use.

We hope to restart our Chromebook trial scheme in September, but in the meantime if you would like to have a discussion about Chromebooks and a virtual tour of one, please email Harvey Woodall on woodall.h1@welearn365.com.

iPads

iPads also continue to be a popular device in Warwickshire Schools. Many schools have now successfully deployed their iPads using our Mobile Device Management (MDM) system called Jamf. Jamf is an industry leading, purpose-built MDM for education and allows schools to keep their iPads in top working order, with the apps teachers need, when they need them.

iPad installations do require an onsite visit, so again, we would work to the COVID-specific guidelines you have within your institution. If you would like to have a discussion about iPads, please email Sarah Fitzgerald on fitzgerald.s1@welearn365.com.

Windows Laptops, Desktops and the New Surface Pro

We continue to offer a range of Windows desktops and laptops from Stone to meet both pupil and staff requirements. Our new laptops now come with the latest 10th

generation Intel Core Processors, offering even faster performance. We are also pleased to announce that we have now created an image for the new ultra-light Microsoft Surface Pro 7 device.

Our Windows devices do require on-site access for installation and as with our iPads, we would work with you to ensure that this is done safely and in line with your school requirements.

Reminder: We are reaching out one last time to individual schools where we have detected Windows 7 machines still being used. Any Windows 7 machines will no longer function on our network after **July 17th 2020**.

As always, if you are unsure about what procurement route is best for your school, we are here to help. Both our teacher advisory and technical teams will be more than happy to discuss your requirements and make suggestions based on your needs and situation.

For further advice, information, quotes and to book site surveys, please contact our Service Desk on ictdsservicedesk@warwickshire.gov.uk.