# Chromebook Scheme
# For Year 9 Students
# September 2026



## Parental Information Pack

**The ordering portal is open:**
**Thursday 7th May until Monday 1st June @ 10pm**

**https://edutech.click/WS-chromebook-scheme**

**Please fill in THIS form to let us know your intentions. This will help us gauge interest in the scheme.**

**Further Help:**

If, after reviewing the information provided in this pack, you have additional questions or would like advice on what Chromebook to select for your child, please **email:** support@edutech.zone or **telephone:** 0203 051 8456, and one of the scheme advisors will be able to assist you.

The package provided on the scheme comes with accidental damage cover. Details of the comprehensive Chromebook protection package are provided on the scheme portal for you to view, print or download at any time you wish.

## About Edutech Zone Ltd

Edutech Zone provides the online portal, direct debit management, parent support and the mechanical warranty and accidental damage cover included in the package.

If you need help or advice, need to make a claim or just have a question about how the scheme works, you can call 0203 051 8456, email support@edutech.zone or use the online parent enquiry form https://edutech.zone/parent_enquiries/ and one of the Edutech support team will assist you.

**Please note:** The monthly direct debit will appear on your bank statement as 'Edutech Zone'.

## Chromebooks for Learning

Wildern School launched the use of Chromebooks for our GCSE students in 2017. By harnessing technology, we open up a wealth of opportunities to improve our students' learning experience whilst better preparing them for a future in the modern world. We want to empower students to take control of their learning and to work in a more individual and personalised way. Furthermore, we have seen how students learn to explore and produce work in new and engaging ways, embracing creativity both in school and out.

Our research since 2013 has highlighted the importance of making our students' educational experience as dynamic and stimulating as possible and that technology opens the door to a new and engaging world. Through our trials of Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education, we have witnessed how our students find engaging and successful learning tools that help them become well-informed, responsible digital citizens and lifelong learners.

All Year 9 students from the Autumn term will have access to a Chromebook, either their own, or one from the school's pool for use in lesson time only to ensure no student is disadvantaged.

Our preference would have been to purchase Chromebooks for all our GCSE students from school funds. Sadly due to increasing financial pressures, this is simply not achievable.

The first round of the leasing scheme was introduced in February 2017. Since then, we have been committed to helping our students and staff use this technology.

By joining this scheme, students will have a Chromebook exclusively for their own use, both at school and at home. Wildern does not gain financially from this scheme, and we have worked with several hardware suppliers to negotiate favourable prices on a range of Chromebooks.

We understand that these costs are not easily affordable, which is why the leasing scheme will be run via monthly direct debit contributions. At the end of the leasing period in Year 11 you will have full ownership of the device. Parents with students registered under Pupil Premium will receive a discount.

**What is a Chromebook?**

Chromebooks are different to laptops in that they run the Google Chrome Operating System. This means that Chromebooks primarily work through a wireless connection with Google apps and documents available online in the cloud.

**Why has the School opted for Chromebooks?**

- ★ **Less than 8 second boot-uptime** means there is no time wasted waiting for the device to start-up
- ★ **Long battery life**
- ★ Simple technology
- ★ **Automatic updates,** meaning there is no need to purchase new software and install on the device
- ★ **Easy student-teacher workflow**
- ★ Excellent **collaboration** tools
- ★ **Work seamlessly with Google Apps for Education, which our students and teachers already use**
- ★ It is 'their' device, so it can be **used for learning at school and their own personal use at home**
- ★ It can be used for homework
- ★ **Technical support at school through the Genius Bar** and the student 'Googlers' new technology focus team

**Benefits for parents:**

- No credit checks.
- No upfront cost if you choose the monthly direct debit option.
- Special education pricing.
- 3-year mechanical warranty.
- 3-year accidental damage cover
- 3-year parent scheme support
- The scheme runs for 36 months, supporting your child during their GCSE studies
- Research has shown these devices are very reliable and have good longevity
- Furthermore, Chromebooks are increasingly being used in further education
- It will be used as a professional tool at school and for homework, but students can use it for their personal use at home
- Supporting students in developing technological skills for the world of work
- Choice of outputs means that students will still use pen and paper as the Chromebook is not a substitution for writing by hand

- Support for all parents on how the device can be used for learning through our parental programme called WINK. This will include advice on keeping the device safe and e-safety tips.
- Smoothwall Cloud Filter - Restricting access to inappropriate websites on the device, whether at school or at home.
- Smoothwall Monitor - Context-aware reporting on

**What if my child already has a Chromebook or I want to buy one outside the scheme?**

**Why can't my child bring a device we already have at home?**

Due to new guidance from KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) the school must ensure that if the school directs a student to use a device, that device must have adequate filtering and monitoring enabled. The school cannot guarantee these features on devices it does not manage. To this end, as of September 2026, all scheme devices must be managed by the school and purchased through this scheme.

Parents are more than welcome to purchase their own device for use at home, but it cannot be brought onto the school site for the filtering and monitoring reasons mentioned above.

If parents are interested in filtering and monitoring their own devices at home, we recommend using the software Qustodio. This software acts independently of the school, and we do not receive any reports it creates.

**11 Reasons to join the scheme:**

- ✓ Students work independently and at a pace that suits their needs
- ✓ Get unlimited access to teaching and learning resources
- ✓ Collaborate with other students electronically
- ✓ Communicate with their teachers and get support when they need it most
- ✓ Work from anywhere in Wildern, not just in ICT suites or the LRC
- ✓ Store work online where it can be backed up automatically
- ✓ Develop a proficiency in IT
- ✓ Bring their work home in a digital format where you can view it
- ✓ 8 second boot-up meaning time is not wasted in class
- ✓ Stay organised with the online calendar for deadlines and events
- ✓ Monitoring and Internet filtering are active on the device 24/7. Safeguarding alerts sent to the DSL team at school.

**Quotes from our Students:**

*"I prefer doing my work online as it's all organised in one place and it saves me from forgetting my homework"*
*"I find it easy to use and navigate a Chromebook and I didn't need to be shown how to do it"*
*"Google Drive allows us to access our work wherever we are and saves automatically"*

*" Its opened up a whole other world of learning to me, where I am choosing how I best learn"*
*"I am online accessing my work in 7 seconds on my Chromebook it is so fast"*
*"Google classroom has helped me to stay organised and it has stopped my parents and teachers chasing me about my homework"*

## FAQs - General

**Will Chromebooks be used in every lesson, every day?**
Traditional methods of learning will still hold a vital place at Wildern, and students will not use Chromebooks for five hours every school day. Chromebooks are an educational tool, not a replacement for these methods.

**Can the Chromebook be used at home?**
Yes. Using the Chromebook in school and at home supports our goal of anytime, anywhere learning.

**What investments will Wildern be making?**
Preparations for this scheme began in 2017, following research into how technology can support learning. The school has invested in expanding wireless coverage and improving connectivity to ensure it is ready to support new Chromebooks. Wildern has already invested in improving the school's Internet connection. We now have an impressive 2000Mbps available. This will ensure that even during peak times, everyone will have reliable Internet access.

**What if there is not enough take-up?**
We are looking for a 75% uptake of the scheme as we have in the current Y9. If we do not reach this figure, the scheme will be reassessed and may not run.




**The deadline to sign up for the scheme is 10 pm Monday, June 1st.**

## Curriculum FAQs

**How will the school ensure students get the most from the Chromebooks?**
Wildern teaching staff are committed to developing opportunities to engage with new technologies so that devices support learning. Over the past 9 years, teachers have taken part in professional development and training to embed opportunities for learning with Chromebooks and to develop their use of the Google Apps for Education suite.

Following the re-accreditation of the ICT mark, the assessors' report stated:

*"That technology is embedded in the school vision is evidenced both by documentation and a desire for continuous improvement. It is not so much a vision rather a part of the school's DNA and the use of technology is clearly transformational, "deepens thinking", rather than a replacement for old tools and methods."*

**How will the device be used in the classroom?**
Accessing Google documents and recording visual elements of learning, such as role-play or experiments, can be used as tools to support and enhance learning and promote creativity. We seek to equip all our students with the necessary skills and modes of thinking so that they will succeed in a constantly changing society, where high levels of skill in the use of new technologies are the currency for employment.

**What companies are involved in the Scheme?**

Edutech **-** This company runs the ordering portal, support services, delivery, and carries out insured repairs.

**What Chromebooks are on offer?**
This year, the Chromebook scheme launches at a time when the cost of key computer components has risen dramatically. The school has tried to secure the best deal possible, given the purchasing issues at hand. There is 1 Chromebook on offer. Details of which are on the following two pages. We have decided to opt for one Chromebook as this significantly reduced the purchase price compared to offering the usual choice of 3. **We are offering the top-tier device at the cost of the bottom tier. £17.31 a month over 36 months.**

**Please be aware:** The monthly costs below include 36 months of mechanical warranty, 36 months of accidental damage cover, a Google license, delivery and a neoprene sleeve. The costs are calculated in 36 equal monthly direct debit contributions.

**ASUS CZ1204FM4A-R90046**

This year we have opted for 1 device, the ASUS CZ1204FM4A-R90046 **- Touch / Flip + Stylus**

**£623.16** upfront or **£17.31** per month for 36 months







- 8GB of RAM
- 802.11ax WiFi + Bluetooth 5.4
- 12.2 inch screen
- Weight: 1.31Kg
- 3-Year mechanical warranty
- 3-Year accidental damage cover



Full Product details can be found on the ordering portal.

https://edutech.click/WS-chromebook-scheme

**Will the device be used in every lesson?**

Not always. There will be times when it is not suitable for learning, such as when students complete practice exam questions or when the learning is fit for purpose. Furthermore we are mindful that students do not stare at a screen for long periods of time and would encourage you to support us in this at home whether the device is a Chromebook or other like smartphone or tablet.

There will also be the opportunity for students to decide which is the best learning tool for the job. For example students may decide to simply take rough notes on paper rather than using their device. We are keen to develop student's independent learning skills and support them in finding their preferred learning and revision techniques.

**Will students still use pen and paper?**
Students will be expected to write in some lessons therefore, students will be writing notes on paper and practising their handwriting as they face formal written exams in Y11. Students will be expected to bring black pens to school as they do currently and will still engage in tasks to practise handwriting.

**Will the device be used for homework?**
Yes. Currently, self-study (homework) assignments are posted on Google Classroom.

**Will our students be in danger if they are carrying a Chromebook to school?**
Many students already carry valuable electronic devices to school such as smartphones and the Chromebook is not seen to provide a notable additional risk. We have worked with the support of Hampshire Constabulary and will be delivering an assembly to the year group before the scheme starts with advice on personal safety to and from school. We also suggest you register this device and indeed any other electronics device with the Police Immobilise Database, the largest free possession ownership log which helps to get recovered property to its rightful owners.

**DEVICE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

**What else do I need to know about Chromebooks?**
In recent years there has been a move away from the more traditional approach of installing applications to a computer and only having that data available on that one device. It is now more common to use a web-based application that stores your data securely in the cloud allowing you to pick up from wherever you left off on whatever device you happen to have.

A Chromebook is the next evolution of this by taking the Google Chrome browser and making it the sole focus of the laptop so that everything is accessed through a web browser. With the addition of the Chrome Extension/App ecosystem you are able to access a wealth of "Desktop-style" applications which wrap around web-based systems.

**What are the key features?**

- Speed. Because it is only running a web browser at its core, there is less to load so it is faster to start up and be ready to use
- Long battery life. With more of the effort being performed by the cloud the device can last longer between charges
- Work online or offline. Various cloud-based apps can take advantage of local storage to ensure you can keep working offline. Your changes are then automatically synced when you next go online
- Easy collaboration. Google Apps is built around collaboration so multiple people can edit a document at the same time and see each others changes allowing for true group working
- Continuity. No matter what Chromebook you log into you will find everything as you left it because your settings and data is all stored in the cloud
- Updates. Automatic updates happen without requiring your input meaning you always have the latest features and speed enhancements
- Protected. Thanks to the automatic updates you will always have the latest virus protections and with your data stored in the cloud everything is already backed up for you

**How does it work?**

When you log in to a Chromebook using a Wildern email address, you will immediately have access to all of your email and documents stored in Google Drive and to Google Classroom, which many teachers have already started using to set homework and enhance lessons. You aren't just limited to the Google Apps suite (email, docs, sheets) you also have access to the Internet and our curated list of extensions that support learning and revision. If you log in to another Chromebook, you'll find all of your settings are already transferred across, and you can keep working as usual.

**How is it different from a laptop?**

There are some noticeable differences between a Chromebook and a standard laptop, such as the inability to install applications such as Photoshop or Microsoft Office, as they require a full desktop Operating System (OS). However, that does not mean you are not able to perform all of the same tasks as there are many online alternatives such as Pixlr Editor and Google Docs.
A Chromebook will also be of a lower overall specification than a traditional laptop, however that does not mean that it can't do as much! On the contrary, a Chromebook can make full use of the cloud and web apps are able to process much more information far faster than a traditional device.

Finally a common misconception is that a Chromebook is useless without an Internet connection, unlike a normal laptop, however this is not the case thanks to offline storage meaning that Google Drive items can still be edited and many apps and extensions can still work even if just in a limited capacity until connected back to the Internet.

**What if I want to buy my own Chromebook?**

Due to new guidance from KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) the school must ensure that if the school directs a student to use a device, that device must have adequate filtering and monitoring enabled. The school cannot guarantee these features on devices it does not manage. To this end, as of 2026, all scheme devices must be managed by the school and purchased through this scheme.

Parents are more than welcome to purchase their own device for use at home, but it will not be able to be brought onto the school site for the filtering and monitoring reasons mentioned above.

**Who repairs or replaces the Chromebook if it gets damaged?**
Chromebooks acquired via the leasing scheme come with a 3-year mechanical warranty and 3-year accidental damage cover.

Should the Chromebook become damaged at home, you can go to https://edutech.zone/parent_enquiries/ and complete the form. Edutech will get back to you with collection instructions for your repair.

It should be noted that devices sent away for repair normally take the industry standard time of 2 to 3 weeks to pass through the repair procedure.

**Accidental Damage Excess**

We have negotiated a no-excess accidental damage policy with this year's Chromebooks. However, the policy only covers the cost of the device each year. The 1st repair will be carried out in the usual fashion, but further repairs may incur a charge if the repair cost exceeds the cost of the device in that year.

We have tried to secure the best value-for-money protection package, as we understand that accidents do happen. It is important to stress to your children to keep the device safe.

Full details of the mechanical warranty and accidental damage cover are provided on the scheme portal for you to view, print or download at any time during the 36-month scheme. This includes how to make a claim and the policy terms and conditions. Issues with battery life are not covered by the warranty, and power leads are only covered during the first year.

You can also **email:** support@edutech.zone or **telephone:** 0203 051 8456 and one of the advisors will assist you in making a claim.

**Will pupils be issued a loan-device while theirs is being repaired?**
Pupils will not be issued a loan device to take home, but they will be able to borrow one during lessons where one will be needed.

**Can we install our own apps and content?**
Students will be able to install apps approved by the school. If a student wants a particular app made available for installation, they need to request this from their subject teacher.

**What technical support and training will be provided?**
At the start of the school year, students will be taught how to use the Google Apps suite in preparation for receiving their device. The Genius Bar at Wildern is available to students during breaks, lunchtimes, and after school, Monday-Friday, where trained ICT technicians are available to provide any additional technical support or training.
There is no support on weekends, over school holidays, or on Bank Holidays.

**How will devices be charged?**
Students are expected to charge their devices before coming to school for the day. This is due to few electrical points in classrooms, especially in the older buildings and due to the tripping hazard of trailing leads. If the device runs out of charge, students will choose the 'traditional' way of recording their learning via pen and paper.

**Can my child print from their device?**

Chromebooks will be able to print to a variety of devices around the school. These prints will be subtracted from their personal print allowance. If their allowance reaches zero, they can request extra prints to be added to their account from the Genius Bar.

## E-SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING QUESTIONS

**How do you teach students about eSafety?**
There is a comprehensive programme of events supporting students, parents and teachers in e-safety that runs across the academic year:

- Students receive information and support through their ICT lessons 3 times a year with the themes; ZIP IT (Online identity, September), BLOCK IT (Keep safe online, February) and FLAG IT (Cyberbullying, June).
- There is a dedicated WINK (Wildern Interactive Nights of Knowledge) that takes place each year where we invite parents to come and learn how to support their child in staying safe online as well as considering their own safe use.

**What filtering and monitoring will be used on the devices in school?**
At school, student devices will be connected to the Wildern wireless network and a filtered Internet connection. This system blocks unsuitable content and logs access. Mobile Device Management software will be installed, which allows the school to monitor usage and, if required, add/remove apps or remotely wipe devices.

As of 2026, scheme devices will also have Smoothwall Monitor installed. This service will monitor student activity on the device and alert the DSL team to any safeguarding issues. Please note that this service is in operation 24/7 365, whether in or out of school. Although safeguarding alerts are generated in real time, Safeguarding staff are only expected to action alerts during school working hours. If a threat to life is detected, a DSL will immediately receive a phone call from the Smoothwall Monitor team. If you have any questions, please contact the Head of IT Support: j.watson@raiseeducationtrust.org

**How can I help my child use the device safely outside of school?**
We ask parents to talk to their child/children about e-safety and what they have found out at school, and discuss the importance of staying safe online. The information and advice we share with our youngsters is found on the school website and in student planners. We aspire that everyone in our school community will understand how to use social media safely and positively, and we welcome parents each year to an e-safety WINK. Parents are reminded that the school will only be able to filter internet traffic on school-managed accounts.

**What is your Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)?**
The AUP has been written with input from the students. The digital leaders focus group has worked with teachers and IT staff to review and update the policy. There is a copy of the AUP in every student planner.

**How to protect your device?**

If you register your device with **Immobilise** then you are more likely to get it back if it is lost or stolen. Register your device (or any electronic device in your possession) via the immobilise website at: **www.immobilise.com**

LEASING SCHEME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

**Does my child have to lease or purchase a device?**
It is not a requirement that every student joins the leasing scheme and we welcome the decision to buy your Chromebook independently. **Please note:** at the end of the 36 month scheme ownership of the Chromebook will be yours.

**What happens if the device gets damaged at home or at school?**
A 3-year mechanical warranty and accidental damage cover are provided as part of the agreement for any leased device. The current AUP and behaviour policy at Wildern, along with our ethos as a Level 2 accredited RRR school, supports our students in taking responsibility and having respect for their own and other students' possessions.

**When will devices be distributed?**
Devices will be collected from the school at 3 pm from 901 on Monday the 20th of July. Parents who have placed orders will have this date emailed to them after the devices have arrived at the school.

**What happens at the end of the lease?**
At the end of the 36-month lease, you will own the device, and there is no additional cost for this. Any school-owned apps will be remotely wiped and our device management software will be removed when your child comes to the end of Year 11.

**What happens if my child leaves Wildern School before the end of the lease?**
If your child leaves Wildern School before the end of the lease, any outstanding direct debit contributions will become due before the title to the Chromebook can be transferred to you.

**What happens if monthly direct debit contributions stop?**
If your monthly direct debit contribution stops, you will be contacted by Edutech to confirm they are aware of the situation. The school will offer support where possible but devices may be remotely locked by the school if the direct debit contribution isnt made.

**What if my child qualifies for pupil premium?**
A subsidy is available for some pupil premium students - details on application.

If you have any questions. Please email chromebooks@wildern.org