Junior School: Frequently Asked Questions about the Personal Learning Device Program
For students entering into Year 5 in 2016

When will my son receive his device?
Roll out of PLDs to Year 5 will begin in Week 2 of Term 1, 2016 and will be facilitated during your son’s timetabled Technology periods.

Will my son have complete custody of the PLD? Will he bring it home?
Yes, your son will be permitted to take his PLD home to work on assignments and homework each night. It must be returned the next school day, fully charged and secured according to established procedures for Year 5 and 6s.

What cost is involved?
The St Pius X PLD Fee. Details are outlined in the Personal Learning Device Program Rental Agreement.

Is the PLD Fee going to be the same every year?
The fee will remain unchanged across the two years of the Agreement. Beyond that a new device and a new charge will be determined.

At the end of the life cycle of the PLD, can I buy it outright?
St Pius X College is leasing the device. At the end of year two, and once all payments have been made you may elect to retain the device or hand it back to the College. You can elect to retain the device in Term 4, 2017.

If your son continues enrolment onto Year 7, he will be inducted with a new device under the renewal of the PLD Program.

What if my son leaves St Pius X College before payments are complete?
The PLD is to be returned immediately and in good condition. Other arrangements are outlined in the Termination section of the PLD Rental Agreement.

What if my son decides he just does not like working with the PLD? Can he opt out?
No. For the PLD program to be successful, every student will participate. Every effort will be made to support students in their learning, and in using the PLDs. As with any situation, if the student is experiencing difficulty we should communicate and work together to create solutions.
We have a family computer at home. Will my son require continued access to it?

Generally, your son will be able to produce all required tasks on the PLD. Your home computer may be required to supply your WiFi network at home.

Depending on the subjects your son undertakes, software requiring a highly specified computer may be required and access to the College’s computer labs will be arranged.

We do not have wireless access at home. Do we need it?

Your son will be required to access the College’s Learning Management System (eAccess) and other digital content via the Internet. Wireless access would facilitate the use of the PLD at home. However, most tasks can be completed on a broadband enabled computer, at the College Library or at a local library where home wireless access is not available.

Will my son require his PLD at the College every day?

Yes. The PLD Program has been designed to integrate into almost every aspect of the curriculum. PLDs will not be taken to sport at Oxford Falls, and will not be used at events such as the Swimming or Athletics Carnivals.

Will my son still use pen and paper?

Yes. Computers are a tool for learning. PLDs will not replace all methods of teaching and learning, and there will continue to be a place for writing on paper. The development of good penmanship will remain a focus of teaching and learning at St Pius X College, both in the Junior and Senior schools. The PLDs stylus has been improved to better replicate the writing experience in a digital space.

Will PLDs replace books altogether?

No. Some required textbooks and readers come in an electronic format and will be made available to students.

Will the PLD make the school bag too heavy?

The PLD is light and fits comfortably into the school bag.

My son has an iPad/Android device at home. Can we use this instead?

No. It is important that all students have the same PLD. The St Pius X College PLD is an integrated package of learning integration, support, hardware, data, spares, apps, software, warranty and service agreement. During repairs students are provided with an equivalent PLD to ensure no interruption to their workflow.

The College provides the device to ensure that all machines are loaded with essential apps and software, internet security can be maintained and that maintenance is streamlined.
My son has a learning difficulty. Will this make high school harder?

St Pius X College offers individualised support for students with individual learning needs. For the past number of years, technology has been found to assist many students with their individual needs.

What if the PLD breaks, stops working or is stolen?

Report any problems to the College’s ICT Help Desk. The problem will be managed at school. Please check the PLD agreement for specific details. Students will be provided with an equivalent PLD until a repair, warranty or insurance claim is made. This is subject to the return if appropriate signed forms.

What happens if my son loses his stylus pen?

The PLD can still be operated without the stylus pen. Replacement pens will be available from the College at a charge.

Our family is not so good with computers. How can we support our son at home if he has a technical problem?

Report any problems to the College’s ICT Help Desk as soon as possible.

What if my son uses the computer to access inappropriate websites or chat rooms? Or just surfs the net to waste time?

Most students use their PLDs responsibly and teachers will educate them in appropriate use. St Pius X College has security and filters in place, but these are not infallible. A helpful teacher or parent nearby at home is the best filter.

Will my son be able to load his own apps onto the PLD?

Students will be able to add legally acquired apps but with this facility comes responsibility. Apps must be appropriate for school use, and teachers will closely monitor installations and downloading. Parents should check their son’s PLD regularly.

How will my son purchase apps?

Where paid apps are required, the Microsoft Store gift card can be used. These are available in denominations of $25 from major electrical retailers in the Chatswood CBD. Parents should not provide their credit card details to their son for the purpose of purchasing apps.

Will my son be able to access games on the PLD?

Yes. Students will be able to access games. However, our teachers are preparing our students for a workplace of learning and inappropriate content and use of games in class will be a discipline issue.

What if my son forgets to charge the battery and it runs out at school?

Students are required to have the necessary equipment, such as texts, pens and paper. An uncharged battery is treated in the same manner as forgotten learning equipment. A replacement is not available for use in the day. The student should report to the designated charging stations in the classrooms and manage a solution with the class teacher.
Won't it take a long time to log on and off at the start and end of each lesson?
Students should only need to perform one full login at the start of the day, which will typically take less than 1 minute. Resumption from standby is an instant on.

How will my son print?
At home or through the College’s Junior School Library (charges apply). Assignments from time to time will need to be printed, but the College is moving towards more electronic submissions. Examinations will still be handwritten.

Printing will not be facilitated in general purpose classrooms.

Will the PLD work on our home wireless network and home printer?
Yes. If you are familiar with networking, the PLD can be added to a home network, as long as the College’s network and security settings are not interfered with. Please contact the ICT Help Desk for further information.

Will my son use an electronic diary?
In 2016, students will continue to use the College Student Diary but will have increased access to information on the College Portal.

Will my son require headphones?
Yes, any standard set of ear phones (ear plug type) can be used. Your son will also be issued with a microphone headset. The nominal cost will be charged to your fee account.

Does a PLD get viruses? How secure is it? Can my son access inappropriate content?
While using the College Wi-Fi network, all online content will be filtered to prevent students accessing inappropriate content. Provision of internet security and appropriate use at home will be the responsibility of families. The College encourages parents to discuss expectations with their son regarding appropriate use of the device. It should be noted that no device can be guaranteed to be 100% secure.

What level of IT support will St Pius X College provide?
Our ICT Helpdesk personnel will be available to support PLD users. We will provide assistance with technical issues, such as ensuring that the student’s PLD connects to the Wi-Fi network and all available services such as email. The College will not undertake mechanical repairs. All PLDs will be under warranty, so any technical faults will be addressed under the terms of the warranty and our insurance with iBroker. Please see the PLD Rental Agreement for details.

What professional development will teachers receive?
All teachers in 2016/2017 will participate in a series of professional development workshops throughout the year. They will be given time to learn how to use the device and then explore curriculum integration strategies to effectively plan and implement learning programs on the PLD.

Will my son still require a calculator?
Yes. Some Mathematics lessons at school require a calculator with a memory function. The PLD is not suitable for examinations.
What if my question is not answered here?

Please ask! We understand that there may be some early confusion and questions not included in this FAQ. We welcome input from parents, students and staff and would be grateful for any feedback.