

Hardware Requirements for Students in *Module One* Classes

At Somerville, students in *Module One* classes will be required to bring either a laptop or chromebook that is completely reliable and meets the following specifications:

1. MacOS or Windows 10
2. AMD A-Series or Intel Celeron/Pentium or 6th generation i-series CPU, or later
3. 4GB of RAM as minimum, 8GB or more is highly recommended
4. 500GB HDD or larger is recommended, especially if the device is likely to be used at home for entertainment/gaming use, a device with an SSD will be faster but provide less storage space (typically 128GB or more)
5. Wi-Fi capable (often specified as 802.11 g/n/ac)
6. Minimum of 6-hours battery life
7. 11-13 inch screen. Devices with larger screens tend to be unwieldy and heavy
8. A front-facing webcam is useful for students to take recordings or photos of their work

Experience has shown us that older machines are often slower and tend to be unreliable. Preferably any device brought to Somerville would be new or near new.

Please note that chromebooks will have different specifications to those listed above but, due to their specialised nature, any chromebook manufactured in 2016 or 2017 will be suitable for use in class at Somerville Intermediate.

Windows/Android tablets and iPads are not suitable due to their typically low specifications, small physical size, and complications for the Google Apps suite of applications.

We also recommend that students are able to bring a pair of earbuds or slim headphones to school for private listening.

Additionally, a protective laptop sleeve is required to keep the device safe. Each student will have access to a personal locker where their device can be securely stored and having a laptop sleeve, or similar covering, protects the device against scrapes and scratches.

Our local colleges, Botany and Howick, have advised us that they require their students to have a laptop so they can run certain software at their schools. We have aligned our specifications with theirs so that a laptop purchased now will also be suitable for the start of college.

Chromebooks are a cheaper option, although they are limited in the range of software they can run (in regards to Windows or Apple software.) A chromebook will meet the needs required at Somerville but they may not be suitable to take to college.

To support parents, we have an arrangement with Noel Leeming and PB Technologies to supply computers at a discounted price and provide peripheral support. From October you will be able to visit their websites (<http://noelleeming.co.nz> <http://pbtech.co.nz>) to view a range of suitable devices.

We will hold an information evening during term four, in conjunction with Noel Leeming and PB Technologies, to provide further information and answer specific questions you may have.