

21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope, now the wait is finally over, that you are pleased your child has their 5th generation Lenovo Thinkpad Yoga 11e to support them with their learning. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding throughout this process and whilst we know it has been a frustrating wait, we would not hesitate to do it again. Launching such a project during a national lockdown and in the middle of a global pandemic might be seen as folly by some, but its success far outweighs the obstacles we have met along the way. Thanks to this venture and 60% of parents signing up, the generosity of BAE Systems, provision from the Department for Education and by repurposing some of our school devices, we now have every student, all 1,078 of them, with a suitable device. This, in itself, is a fantastic achievement and whilst it has been a huge team effort, Mrs Louise Page, Mrs Helen Robinson and Mr Ricky Mason deserve a special mention for their dedication to the cause.

Our remote learning programme, led by Mr Stephen Kelly, Deputy Headteacher, is now approaching the end of its second full week, including live teaching from all of our teachers across our full suite of subjects. Both teachers and students are still finding their way, but feedback so far has been hugely positive. Attendance and engagement is high in live lessons and we will continually look to improve things further. Mrs Robinson, Deputy Headteacher, will be leading a parents' forum so that we can hear back from you about what is going well and what we can do further to support learning at home. If you are interested in being a part of this group, there is a link to follow in the Remote Learning section of our website where you can express an interest.

Just a reminder of some of the key features of your Lenovo device:

- It has an extra durable design engineered to withstand the rigours of the school day.
- It has a flexible 360-degree hinge and 10-point multi-touch display to turn the device into a tablet, when needed.
- It has a hidden stylus so students can write, sketch, annotate documents and take notes.
- It is lightweight and portable.
- It boasts up to 12 hours battery life.

The perfect tool for learning, both in school and at home!

To support students in accessing the features of this device we have, and will be creating further, short video tutorials to ensure students get maximum usage from their device. Our first video '*Showcasing your Lenovo Thinkpad Yoga 11e*' can be viewed on our school website or Furness Education Trust IT Support You Tube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTr5zpYFi-npUPHVCOQ_xrQ

All students have access to the full Microsoft Office Suite and Microsoft Teams, which can be used effectively to take part in live lessons, communicate with teachers and complete their schoolwork. As this is a programme set up by the school and the devices are to be used for education purposes, both in school and at home, it is the school's policy that the laptops are configured and managed centrally by IT Support. Parents/students do not have administration rights to install additional applications and configure settings on the laptops. This is done to ensure the security and integrity of the devices when students are using the devices on site. However, students are able to access popular websites like Netflix, Amazon Prime and You Tube via the web browser. Once the student leaves the school, we will hand you over full privileges of the device. If there is a particular application that can be deployed to the devices to improve the teaching and learning environment, we can review this on a case-by-case basis.

The laptops are fully protected and supported and come with accidental damage and theft cover. If there are any issues with the laptop regarding technical queries or faults, please email it@student.furnessacademy.co.uk. and we will try to rectify the problem as quickly as possible.

If there are any issues regarding laptop contract or payment queries, please email laptopscheme@furnessacademy.co.uk.

Yours faithfully



Simon Laheney
Headteacher & Chief Executive Officer