Dear Parents,

In Term Four our BYOD trial will commence for students in 5/6P. The trial will commence on the first day of Term Four, which is Monday, 12th October. The trial is intended to prepare our community for the further implementation of the BYOD program in 2016. One purpose in writing to parents four months before the start of the trial, is to allow plenty of time for parents to ensure that their child has a suitable device to use during the Term Four trial.

Importantly, our BYOD initiative aligns with our school’s 2015 Annual Improvement Plan: To pursue BYOD options in consultation with Professional Learning at CEO Canberra schools as well as Northern Beaches Christian School.

St Thomas More’s students are: CURIOUS, COLLABORATIVE and CONNECTED. We call this 3C learning.

**Curious learners** are inquisitive, engaged and enthusiastic. They take risks and ask questions. They take responsibility for their own learning.

**Connected learners** see the purpose and meaning of their learning. They make links between their existing knowledge and new learning. They are connected socially as well as digitally. Learning is authentic.

**Collaborative learners** work in teams and groups. They make choices about their learning and assessment tasks. They support other learners and celebrate achievements.

This letter explains the implementation procedure and also includes a ‘BYOD Student Agreement’ form and the ‘Information and Communication Technologies Student/Parent Acceptable Use Agreement’ form to be signed.

In order for your child to participate in the BYOD program, you and your child need to carefully read through the attached forms and sign the school copy and return to your child’s teacher. Keep the student/parent copy for your records.

Your child’s device will need to be a tablet running IOS or Android software. The device does not need to be a new device. A second-hand device from a parent or older sibling is perfectly acceptable. Some examples include iPad Air, iPad Mini. IOS devices are more user-friendly.

Devices must support 802.11 N 5GHz networks. Check on your device’s website for technical specifications.

Please check that:

The device, if possible, has more than 16 gigabytes of storage. Tasks which will be created as multimodal presentations and as a result increased storage capacity will assist students. The iPad 2 (2011), while still functional, may not provide the best experience.

Devices with cases protecting the corners will provide increased protection for screens.
Our school network is maintained and monitored by the Catholic Education Office, which provides up-to-date support and web security. To ensure the safety of devices, they will be locked in classrooms during recess and lunch breaks.

Students will need certain educational apps. As mentioned at the recent Information session at our May Community Council meeting, families will be responsible for managing their own devices and ensuring that the Apps requested by St Thomas More’s Primary School are installed. A list of essential and suggested Apps will be provided on our school website under the ‘BYOD’ tab.

On the first day back of Term 4, 12th October, the students in 5/6P will participate in a Digital Citizenship Workshop which will be run by an expert in the field. As mentioned, students will require their devices from this day forward.

I understand that this initiative may be a financial impost on some families. If you require support, please contact me or Miss Pearson.

Please return all signed forms to Miss Pearson by **Friday, June 26th, 2015**.

Kind regards,

Margaret Pollard
Principal