Dear Prospective Parents and Learners

e-LEARNING

One of our strategies as a school is to stay abreast of the latest developments and to ensure that what we offer is relevant to the 21st century. It is for this reason that we have made the bold decision to incorporate e-learning into our educational approach.

St Conrad's will run the e-learning programme from Grade 7 to Grade 10 in 2015 and then Grade 6 to Grade 11 in 2016 etc. What does this mean and what are the implications?

All learners in these respective grades will be expected to acquire a tablet which will serve as a technological device for the following purposes:

- Electronic textbooks will be purchased and loaded. This will not only result in your child not having to carry a bag close to 20kg in weight but also will ensure that all his/her textbooks are on hand. Electronic textbooks are significantly cheaper than the hard copies purchased at present.
- Educators will be able to add additional notes, videos, worksheets, resources etc. to every learner's electronic textbook with the click of a button.
- Learners will be able to access a wide range of images and videos to enhance the learning experience. A simple example will be videos that illustrate certain experiments.
- The minimum requirements for a tablet are:
  - Android 4.1 or higher, (must be upgradable) 1.0/2GHz Dual core CPU or Quad Core CPU, 1GB ram, Wi-Fi (A grade Quality) , battery must last at least 5 and a half hours on video play. Minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 600 for either a 7" or 10" device.
- Apple I-pads will also run effectively on the system as long as the minimum specifications are met.
- There is NO need to purchase bandwidth or engage with any service provider to give the learner access to the Internet. Our server is sufficient and will give them all the access they need to information. A very stable Wi-Fi network facilitates communication with the server.
- While the device serves as an all-in-one replacement for text book resources as well as interactive inclusions from teacher planning, workbooks will remain in use.
- Due to the variety of applications that these devices have available, various locks can be instituted to minimise (avoid would be ideal) learners "playing" instead of working.
- Prescribed e-books and other resource material uploaded by teachers can be guarded by firewalls to avoid copyright infringements.

- Should a learner have a laptop with Wi-Fi connectivity, that will also suffice. (This, however, is not recommended due to a shorter battery life and also the fact that a laptop will most probably become more of a frustration to the learners as they will have to unpack it for every lesson and shutdown and restart a number of times a day - also affecting the battery life)

The above-mentioned is part of Phase 1 and we are really excited, considering what the future holds in this regard. Below find some frequently asked questions and answers:

Q: Can content be transferred to another tablet?
A: Parents have options to supplement prescribed curriculum content at own cost. The e-book initially downloaded will remain on the device and can be updated for the one year licensing period. At the end of that year, the book will remain on the device, but no updates will be available. The book is therefore "locked".

Q: Is access only available at school or can it be accessed from home?
A: Yes access is available

Q: In the event of loss or damage, can material be accessed again?
A: Yes, it will be stored in a cloud and can be restored.

Q: Are there licensing fees?
A: Yes but the school covers these expenses

Yours in education

Mr J Nel
Executive Head

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I _____ (Parent's / Guardian's Name), hereby confirm receipt of this letter and understand the contents thereof.

Learner's Name: _____   Grade: _____

Signed: _____   Date: _____