

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONAL COMPUTER PURCHASES

Malvern College – ICT Department (March 2009)

Introduction

The school computers are mostly Apple Macintosh and we strongly encourage the use of Apple Macs in a learning environment. However, the network supports both Mac and PC computers. If you wish to purchase your own computer for use at home and at Malvern, please bear in mind the following requirements & recommendations;

Computers

Macintosh - Apple MacBook or MacBook Pro (recommend 1GB RAM minimum)
see <http://www.apple.com/uk/education> for more information

Windows PC - Any modern PC (laptop recommended) running Windows XP – SP2. (This should be up to date - all Windows updates run) or Windows Vista.
A wireless card supporting IEEE 802.11g (54Mbps)

Operating System & Localisation

The school *requires* all pupils to be running an **English language** based operating system on their computers. Computers running systems in a language other than English will not be registered for use on the school networks.

for Mac

- Mac OS X 10.4.10 (recommended)
- Mac OS X 10.5.5

for PC

- Windows XP – Service Pack 2 installed (and all Windows updates installed)
- Windows Vista (with SP1)

for Linux

- We would recommend one of the following distributions
Ubuntu, Fedora

Office & Productivity Tools

Microsoft Office (available for both Mac & PC) is used throughout the school and is a recommended software addition.

An alternative to Microsoft Office is OpenOffice (www.openoffice.org) and is a free download. OpenOffice is a fully featured suite of productivity tools, capable of opening/saving all Microsoft Office file formats.

Antivirus software

Sophos Antivirus is obligatory on all computers and will be provided by the school at the time of computer registration. Existing antivirus software will be disabled (or uninstalled as necessary) so as not to conflict with the Sophos installation.

For the latest updates to these recommendations, please visit the following website;

<http://www.malcol.org/general-information/key-information/>