



The Digital Revolution at Blacktown Girls High

Dear Parents / Caregivers of Year 9 students at Blacktown Girls,

The Digital Education Revolution (D.E.R.) is really alive at Blacktown Girls High. Early in Term four, the school will receive the Lenovo S10e notebooks for each student in Year 9.

The Lenovo S10e notebook might be small, but its size belies its power and physical capabilities.

These *pocket rockets* are powered by a 1.6 gigahertz processor, have two gigabytes of RAM, a 160GB hard drive and are fitted with the latest Microsoft 7 programs and Adobe software, altogether valued at over \$6,000.

They are also extremely theft and damage-proof. If a computer is stolen or lost, it can be shut down from a central terminal, where a tracker will then be used to find it.

Already, we have 20 teachers of Year 9 who are honing their skills with the notebooks in preparation for this revolution. The school has also been equipped with wireless connections in 5 locations and this will be increased over the coming months.

Early next year the next round of Year 9 notebooks and more for staff will arrive. This will mean that by mid-2010 we will have one third of the school operating with laptops.

This is an exciting and challenging period for education at Blacktown Girls High School as N.S.W. public school students are in the forefront of enormous change in the way we teach and learn.

This revolution will require new rules for communication and the development of a new etiquette and procedures for completing schoolwork. In fact, the definition of schoolwork as we know it will change. We will all be on a very steep learning curve.

Mr. Matthew Forth has been appointed to the school's Technical Support Officer (T.S.O.). It will his responsibility to maintain the laptops. Mr. Forth has already been working at the school in a casual capacity and it is with pleasure that we welcome him to the school on a full time basis. He will be located in the Library for easy access for students. Ms Supreet Kaur will, of course, continue to oversee technology at the school.

Blacktown Girls High recognises that so much of our daily life today requires appropriate computer literacy; computer literacy is almost as important as reading and writing so, for many students, technology is already an integral aspect of our students' learning.

Blacktown Girls High prides itself on preparing our students for a lifetime of achievement, in whatever field they feel themselves capable of undertaking. Technology and these laptops, then, are not a fad but a necessary tool to help our students in their learning.

In order that the roll out of these laptops can take place, Year 9 parents and students must make sure that the relevant paperwork is completed and returned, signed, to the school.

Accompanying this letter, are:

- Welcome letter from Julia Gillard (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education);
- Cyber Smart Guide (a guide to safe internet usage);
- DER Laptop user charter. (2 page tear-apart booklet.);
- BGHS Laptop user charter (single page);
- Issue of '*Click*' (Parents' guide to technology and learning).

We would ask that you please complete and sign the two copies of the laptop use charter and have your daughter return them to Mr. Forth (in the Library) no later than Thursday 1st October, 2009.

A student will not be issued her laptop until all the necessary paper has been returned, completed and signed.

A *parent information evening* has been organized for **Wednesday 21st October** (the first Wednesday of Term 4) in the school Library at 7:00pm. At this information evening, important matters about the laptop program, use of the laptops in your child's learning and the key issue of cyber-safety will be discussed.

We look forward to seeing you on that evening.

Yours sincerely,

Edward G. Gavin
PRINCIPAL
21st September, 2009