



Welcome to our latest edition of the ICT newsletter. It's been another busy summer of progress for the department and the year ahead has the potential to be one of our most exciting to date.

iLAB

As you arrive at school on Wednesday you will see that the Art/D&T block redevelopment is well under way. Once this is completed it will be home to our state of art iLab, with a suite of iMacs. This will be the new centre for ICT at Pennthorpe, for use not only in Art and Design and Technology, but also for the rest of the school community.

Laptops

Alongside this new facility, the mobile laptop trolleys around the school, one in the Pre-prep, and two in the Prep school, offer ICT in the classroom at any time. Year 7 join Year 8 this year in having their own personal laptops, which they carry around with them during the day – and even take home at night! Pennthorpe pupils will have more access to ICT than ever before and we are looking forward to exploring new ways in which it can enrich the curriculum.

Curriculum

Dedicated ICT lessons will continue in the Pre-prep and Years 3 and 4 while Years 5 to 8 will further develop the current cross-curricular method of teaching which we pioneered (and other schools are now following) three years ago. I have posted a complete syllabus for ICT at Pennthorpe on the ICT page of the school VLE and we hope parents of older children will find it particularly interesting to see how ICT skills are integrated and taught as part of the broader curriculum. It should be noted too that this curriculum is just the core of what we do. Individual subject teachers continue to pursue their own ICT projects and classroom support is available to them so that they get the most out of the technology. Our pupils too are continually finding new ways to use their skills and the school's Environment has stimulated many to communicate, explore and extend their learning opportunities.

VLE

The VLE itself will be expanding this term to include more detailed subject pages and more information to guide both parent and child through their career at Pennthorpe. From this term, all team sheets and match reports will be displayed on the sport page and we will be looking for other opportunities to use the website and attached portal to improve school communications. Access to the VLE is still most easily achieved through the link on the school's website www.pennthorpe.com however you will need to use your child's bespoke login. Please contact techelp@pennthorpe.com if you have any difficulties.



Virtual Learning



Support

Keeping all of our equipment and infrastructure up to date and in order is no small feat and we are delighted that past-pupil, Mr Liam Windsor Brown, will continue this year as our dedicated full time ICT technician. Alongside our ICT support service, Class Technology of Horsham, we feel confident that ICT at Pennthorpe is in good hands. If you have any ideas or thoughts on developing the school's ICT, please email me at: j.wood@pennthorpe.com

Joel Wood, Director of ICT