



Dear Parent,

Following the continued success of the St. Edmund's digital learning programme, it has been fantastic to observe the students this term in Forms 9, 10 and 11 using their digital devices to complete a variety of lesson activities, assignments and coursework set by their teachers.

In the last ISI inspection (October 2024), we outlined our academic framework and showcased how St. Edmund's digital learning strategy complements and enhances the lessons our GCSE students receive. Students were able to show their effective use of [Seneca Premium](#) - a revision tool to help them consolidate concepts learnt in lessons and prepare for their GCSE assessments.

Please be assured that the digital learning strategy does not compromise the reasons you have chosen to send your child to St. Edmund's, rather it enhances the excellent academic provision already on offer. It does not replace the best resource we have at St. Edmund's which is our caring, highly qualified, well-informed, and enthusiastic teachers all of whom are subject specialists.

Our blended digital learning strategy broadens their educational experience at St. Edmund's by giving them the opportunity to develop their skills and experience in:

- Collaboration beyond traditional boundaries.
- Knowledge construction.
- Real-world/problem-solving and innovation.
- Self-regulation.
- Use of ICT for learning.
- Skilled communication.

Our lessons continue to incorporate a range of traditional activities to ensure that screen time is limited in the classroom. This is also the case during social times, PSHE lessons, seminars, sports/games, outdoor and boarding activities.

As a Microsoft Innovative Educator trainer, Dr Carlin has developed and implemented a training programme to improve our teachers' skills, enabling them to create engaging and differentiated lesson resources.

Microsoft Teams for Education

'Microsoft Teams for Education' has been chosen as the learning management system for St. Edmund's. A number of other options were considered and evaluated (including Google Classrooms) however the continued development of Microsoft Teams and devices, as well as the positive feedback we received from students, parents, and our teachers about Microsoft Teams, have made it a clear and obvious winner.

The introduction and use of Microsoft Teams in our senior lessons enables students to:

- Access digital learning resources and revision tools.
- Use technology that can personalise learning (e.g. differentiated worksheets tasks/projects).
- Effectively organise their work for completion and revision.
- Attend online educational events and seminars.
- Use innovative learning spaces (sharing whiteboards, showcasing work, etc.).
- Use collaborative learning skills to develop shared documents and presentations when working in pairs and groups.
- Increase their confidence and competence using IT as well as the skills they will need for higher education and future careers.
- Improve their touch-typing skills using '[EnglishType](#)'.
- Empower SEND students using '[Read&Write](#)' to help with everyday tasks like reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments and proofing written work.
- Be inspired and challenged with tasks and research projects to innovate, discover, and invent ideas and solutions to problems.
- Access lesson resources and tasks if they are absent.
- Take part in new STEM activities such as coding and programming.
- Use the technology for creative activities such as music, digital art and photography and audio/visual media development.
- Complete digital citizenship training (e.g. self-regulation and positive online profiles).
- Access pastoral documents and help-guides.

Digital devices (hardware and software)

Students and teachers use digital devices in the senior school at St. Edmund's. These are required devices for all Form 9 students starting in September 2026; i.e. those students currently in Form 8.

Parents can choose from the list of devices below for their child:

- Microsoft Surface Pro 12
- Microsoft Surface Pro 11
- Microsoft Surface Pro 10
- Microsoft Surface Pro 9
- [ASUS ExpertBook B3 Flip B3402](#)

Please note, whichever option has been selected from the list above, the device must be purchased with a keyboard, digital stylus, and with Windows 11 Pro software (so the device can be enrolled and maintained with the school's management software).

We strongly recommend a rugged/protective case (plain colour only), and this is included in the HardSoft bundles below. Parents can either purchase the required equipment independently or via the school's portal shop with [HardSoft](#) (which includes all of the required equipment, as well as an accidental damage cover and all-inclusive warranty).

If you have questions and/or would like to view either the Microsoft Surface 12, Microsoft Surface Pro 11 or the [ASUS ExpertBook B3 Flip B3402](#) before you decide what is going to be the best option for your child, please contact Dr Carlin (ic@saintedmunds.co.uk) to arrange a call and/or meeting.

Purchasing outside the school scheme

If you choose to purchase on the specified devices independently, you must ensure it has Windows 11 Pro software, as the school will need to enrol the device with its management software. This will require all personal files to be saved to an external hard drive and then a reset to factory settings would be performed.

Use of the digital devices and software

Your child(ren) will receive training so that they will be ready to use their device (and software) for their work in Form 9. This training begins in the 2026 Lent term Friday activity sessions and continues in the 2026 Summer term where they will receive an intensive 1-week training program.

The permitted devices and equipment/insurance bundle have been thoroughly tested and were chosen as they meet the requirements for the rigours of a senior school day:

- Battery life to enable a full charge to last the school day.
- Wi-Fi and connectivity.
- Size and usability of the screen.
- Sophos (Antivirus software).
- 100 GB of OneDrive cloud storage and backup while enrolled at the school.
- Installed and online Office 365 applications (such as Microsoft Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneDrive, and SharePoint) using students @st-eds.co.uk account.
- Efficient and sustainable distribution of resources both on the device itself and for online teaching resources.
- Enhanced feedback on homework and assignments.
- Instant sharing, communication and collaboration with teachers and peers.
- Improved collaborative workspaces and practices.
- Annotatable digital textbooks.
- Remote assistance from teachers during lesson time to support learning.
- The training and use of a digital stylus and 'Digital Ink' to make notes which are saved and backed up automatically.

With all students and teachers having the same digital devices, it will ensure that there are no problems with Wi-Fi connections, printer use or access to the educational apps and software. Research has shown us that this has been a problem encountered by other schools when allowing students to bring in their own choice of device.

The advantage of all students and teachers using the same devices is that St. Edmund's will remotely manage and update the software and virus protection on the device during the students' time at St. Edmund's using the Microsoft Intune programme. Teachers can assist any student during lessons if they have any questions about using their device.

You will understand that the school would prefer that these devices are solely used for educational purposes. Therefore, we will not allow students to be administrators of their device, meaning they cannot add social media apps to their device (Instagram, TikTok, Netflix, etc.) to distract them from their studies.

Device monitoring, storage, and charging

During school hours, use of the device will be subject to the Student IT Acceptable Use Policy. All devices will be subject to monitoring during school hours using the 'Classroom Cloud' software which allows teachers to enable/disable the internet, lock screens and view/open/close website pages and programmes to ensure students are focused and stay on target during a lesson.

The senior students will have their own personal lockers for safe storage of their devices, and these have charging sockets for use if required at form, tutor, or break times.

Deadline for obtaining a required digital device

Please note that students who are not in the specified year groups above can still take advantage of purchasing or renting a device bundle. For more information, please contact Dr Carlin directly by email (ic@saintedmunds.co.uk).

The deadline for parents of students currently in Form 8 to place confirmed orders via the school [HardSoft](#) portal or to bring in equipment purchased externally to the school office is 1st June 2026. This will enable Dr Carlin and Mr Batten (Head of ICT) to enrol, configure, and test the devices, allowing parents to collect the devices during the summer break so that students are ready for their first day back in the 2026 Michaelmas term.

HardSoft purchase/rental options

St. Edmund's has developed a partnership with HardSoft, a computer purchasing and leasing company who have over 20 years of experience working with schools.

Parents are now able to take advantage of two different methods to obtain a device and equipment/insurance bundle. Each option contains the following items:

- Digital device, keyboard, and digital pen.
- Protective/rugged case.
- Accidental damage cover and all-inclusive warranty.

Students will be required to purchase separately a set of 'wired' headphones (to prevent any issues of uncharged devices). Headphones have not been included in the bundle due to students' preference for type/personal fit/connection to the device and allowing for the fact that they may already own a pair.

HardSoft has created a school portal with the following purchase or rental options:

1 – Rental/Lease option

An initial 4-month deposit and 24 or 36 monthly payments via Direct Debit depending on your preferred term. At the end, you can return the device in working order to receive a refund of your deposit or take ownership and HardSoft will keep the deposit amount.

2 - Purchase option

A one-off payment for the equipment via Direct Debit.

Both the options include the accidental damage cover ([EduGuard](#)), [warranty](#), and deployment into the school system.

To view the prices for each of the options and/or to place an order for a device, please click the [HardSoft](#) portal link.

Following requests from parents about obtaining devices for the 2026 Michaelmas term, we are pleased to be able to offer the option, via HardSoft, of securing a device for your child ready for the start of the 2026 Michaelmas term and delaying the first monthly payment.

By selecting the 'Delayed delivery' for deliveries that align with the next academic year, your deposit or purchase payment will be taken at the time of the order being processed, with the first rental payment, if applicable, on 18/09/2026. You can then be assured that your child's device will be sent to the school to be enrolled using the school's management software, ready for the first day of the new 2026 Michaelmas term.

Whilst HardSoft is confident that they will have the stock required to equip every student with their devices before the beginning of the 2026 Michaelmas term, to err on the side of caution, they have asked for all orders to be placed by 1st June 2026. This will ensure that HardSoft is able to fulfil your order and deliver it to the school in time to be enrolled and ready for your child's first lesson of the 2026 Michaelmas term.

Once an option has been chosen and the necessary digital paperwork completed via the school's HardSoft portal shop, HardSoft will send a confirmation email to you and notify the school with a delivery date. The device and equipment will be sent to St. Edmund's so that it can be configured for your child with their @st-eds.co.uk Office 365 account and connection to the school networks and printers, etc.

Please note that devices purchased through the school's HardSoft portal shop will provide the most consistent learning experience and will ensure that student devices and applications integrate fully with those used by teachers. They are also the only devices for which we can offer technical support.

Further information

We understand that you may have more questions than are answered in this document so please don't hesitate to contact Dr Carlin (jc@saintedmunds.co.uk).