



ICT Report 2015

Wycliffe Christian School

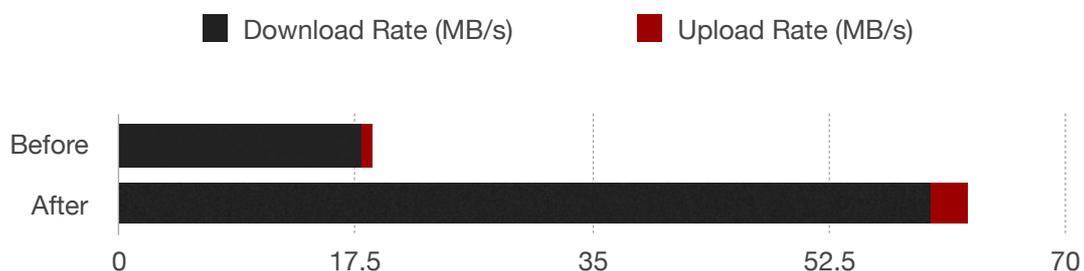
Wycliffe Christian School values God's gift of digital technology as a tool for learning, communicating and creativity. These technologies enable students to engage with and use information, give expression to their imaginative ideas, create for a diverse audience, communicate with a wider learning network and engage in collaborative learning, which we see as being an expression of the gospel values of relationship and community.

2015 has been a massive year for ICT at Wycliffe Christian School. I am excited to provide this report for the public to see the fruitful work that has been done throughout the year to enrich education through God's gift of information & communications technology.

Network Connection

To further support cloud-based and collaborative computing, and improve digital communication, it was important for Wycliffe to upgrade their link between areas of the campus, and to the outside world.

In July we introduced a *fusion broadband* connection, utilising a number of ADSL2+ connections bonded together for NBN-grade download rates, network failover in the event of line outages, and scaling options for future requirements.



In addition, we completed our phased rollout of *Aerohive*, an enterprise-grade wireless network now available in every corner of the school and capable of handling full Internet bandwidth for hundreds of wireless devices.

Students & staff have thus enjoyed more robust and immediate access to enriching online tools and resources.



School Website

Wycliffe relaunched their school website in July after retiring the previous design, originally launched in 2006.

The new website was developed with modern technologies in mind - optimised for mobile devices and integrating with Twitter and other social media channels.

Wycliffe has begun to utilise Facebook and Twitter more heavily for communication of day to day achievements and news to the local community.

Parent Communication

The partnership and communication between school and home has strengthened through Wycliffe's commitment to using technology for up to date and immediate access to news, resources, and tools.

Wycliffe has continued to develop the parent portal and its components, moving the system away from the school website and into a dedicated area.

Primary school parents were invited to trial *Skoolbag* during Term 4, a communication system supporting push notifications on Android devices and iPhones. This trial proved successful, and Wycliffe intends to continue supporting a system like this in 2016.

7-12 BYOT Program

Perhaps Wycliffe's biggest step forward in technology for 2015 is September's announcement of a BYOT (Bring-Your-Own-Technology) program for years 7-12, equipping every student in years 7-12 with a Chromebook by the beginning of 2017. The decision to adopt the Chromebook device comes after a very successful trial of Chromebook devices in Term 3 with classes in years 7, 9, and 10.

The BYOT program was carefully developed by Wycliffe's ICT Committee over 2014 and 2015 with wisdom and discretion, evaluating the use and cost of technology from a Christian worldview perspective.



Google Apps

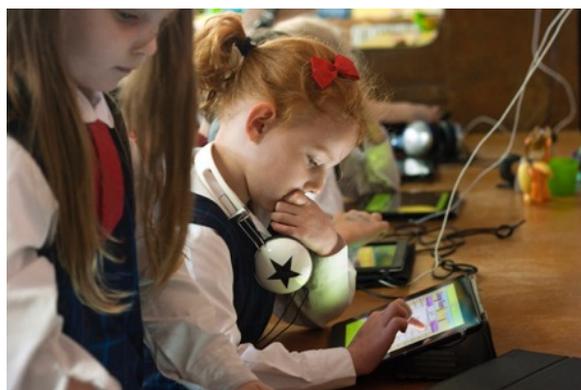
To support the BYOT program, Wycliffe chose GAFE (Google Apps for Education) as the suite of digital tools for learning, working harmoniously with the Chromebook device.

GAFE unlocks powerful collaboration features, anywhere-anytime access to cloud services & data, and a safe teacher-student environment.

Throughout 2015, ICT has empowered teachers to develop lessons using Google Apps and utilising the BYOT format in preparation for the launch of BYOT in 2016. Many students have already enjoyed a taste of Google Apps, with teachers adopting the use of Google Classroom, Google Docs, and other components of the GAFE suite in their lessons, and email accounts and other systems already migrated across to Google's systems.

K-6 iPads

ICT continues to support the use of class sets of iPads in K-6 classrooms, with heavier adoption being encouraged throughout 2015. iPads have proven to be a natural, engaging and exciting device for primary students, and K-6 Teachers continue to work closely with ICT on ways to improve the educational effectiveness of iPads.



On a personal note

2015 has been the busiest, most exciting year in my 7 years as ICT Officer/Administrator at Wycliffe Christian School. I wish to thank those involved in the ICT Committee for their various contributions to the decision making process, in particular Mr Brett Duncan, the ICT Coordinator who has worked closely with me over the past 7 years, delivering professional development to staff and providing the pedagogical perspective to conversations around ICT.

I also thank the Principal, Mr Peter Jamieson for entrusting & empowering me and the rest of those involved in the various ICT projects this year.

Finally, I thank the staff, students & parents for their cooperation and support as we manage the ever changing world of technology and its impact on learning at Wycliffe.

Rhys Andrews
ICT Administrator