

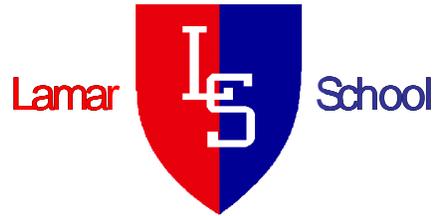
# iRaiders...21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners

## **WHAT IS A 1 TO 1 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?**

- In a 1-to-1 environment, each student has a networked laptop that connects them with their teachers, fellow students and classmates, outside experts, and coursework resources.
- A 1-to-1 environment opens new avenues for learning while also making it easier to take full advantage of standard teaching practices. As a result, learning is much more active and student-centered.
- The power of technology is unleashed as a critical tool for learning, research, collaboration, communication, and self-expression.

## **WHAT IS THE APPLE 1:1 LAPTOP INITIATIVE?**

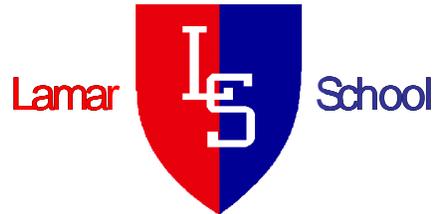
- The term 1:1 is the ratio of computers to students. 1:1 means one computer for each senior.
- Students are growing up in a very different learning environment from the one in which their parents grew up. The digital landscape continually changes, and schools around the world are making very significant investments in technology to prepare students for their future.



- At Lamar we identified our technology provision as an area requiring improvement, and we looked at several alternatives. The idea is that technology is not an additional class that you might visit once or twice a week, but it is now an integral part of the way that we work.
- Technology is becoming more than a tool that helps us achieve our aims; it is a cognitive tool rather than enhances learning. Technology is also becoming the medium in which a lot of daily work takes place. Students are comfortable in a digital world, in which sound and images are increasingly important media for transmitting and processing information alongside the written word.
- Technology puts learning in the hands of the students to a far greater degree, and allows for a variety of learning styles while fostering creativity. It is a way of providing differentiated instruction.
- We are committed to working with our students and faculty to help and encourage them to become comfortable using the new technology in increasing proportions.

## **WHY APPLE?**

- Apple has achieved an outstanding reputation in educational computing and has invested heavily in developing new approaches to student learning that integrate research and collaboration with multimedia presentation forms.
- The hardware is robust and durable, and the software has been designed for the hardware, leading to largely trouble-free integration of software and hardware. The



laptops are even designed with students and young people in mind – they do not just look good, they have rounded corners to prevent snagging when putting them in and out of school bags; they have reinforced casing so that the stress is reduced when you pick up the laptop by a corner in order to show the screen to someone else.

- There used to be a compatibility problem with Apple computers, and many people today still harbor that suspicion. In fact the latest generations of Apples use Intel processors and have become very compatible. An Apple Macbook will even run the Windows operating system and all normal Windows programs. (A software called Parallels can even simultaneously run the Apple operating system and Windows at the same time without restarting the computer).
- Apple computers appear to carry a higher price tag, but to be fair, when you compare specifications, and when you consider that an Apple laptop is normally expected to give four good years of service and still retain a residual value at the end, this puts things into perspective.