



# Tadcaster Grammar School

*'A Culture of Excellence'*

Dear Year 6 Parents

Many thanks to all of you who attended our chromebook information evening on Wednesday. I hope you found it useful, and that it addressed some of the questions and concerns you might have about the initiative. I promised to provide further information regarding some of the issues raised, in particular the option for parents to source their own chromebook rather than opt into the Freedomtech scheme which the school is endorsing.

We have made the decision to allow parents to opt for a chromebook of their own choosing if they prefer, provided that it meets the key points of the specification for the Viglen device we are recommending. *Please note that you would also be required to purchase a Google Chrome licence, which would allow the chromebook to be incorporated into our Google education domain.* Unless the device is registered in this way, it would not be able to access the educational applications or be managed by our school administrator. We would purchase this licence on your behalf, for a one off payment of £20. Please also be aware that insurance and warranty would be wholly your responsibility if you opt to take this route.

**We certainly cannot accept anything other than a Chromebook.** Windows based laptops, Apple MacBooks, or other similar mobile devices do not function in the same way, and students would certainly be disadvantaged if they were to use these alongside their classmates. We will not be allowing such devices as an alternative. If you require further clarification, please ask us for advice.

If you intend to buy your own device which meets our requirements, it is essential that you indicate that this is the case, and notify us that you require a Google Chrome license **no later than 8th July**. This must be done via the school website, using the online form we have provided.

LINK: <https://goo.gl/forms/bPS7xNeqk23d9t9P2>

We also need to make it clear that it is inadvisable to buy *any* alternative until you have confirmation from the school that the program will be running in September. We will only be embarking on the 'chromebooks for Learning' initiative if we have enough parental support, and we do not want you to have bought your own chromebook prior to this confirmation.

I have also attached a leaflet about Google Apps for education for those of you that requested more information about how the chromebooks would be integrated into learning and teaching. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information if you require. Finally, a reminder that the portal for ordering a chromebook through the school's supplier closes on **8th July**. Applications after this date will not allow for delivery for September.

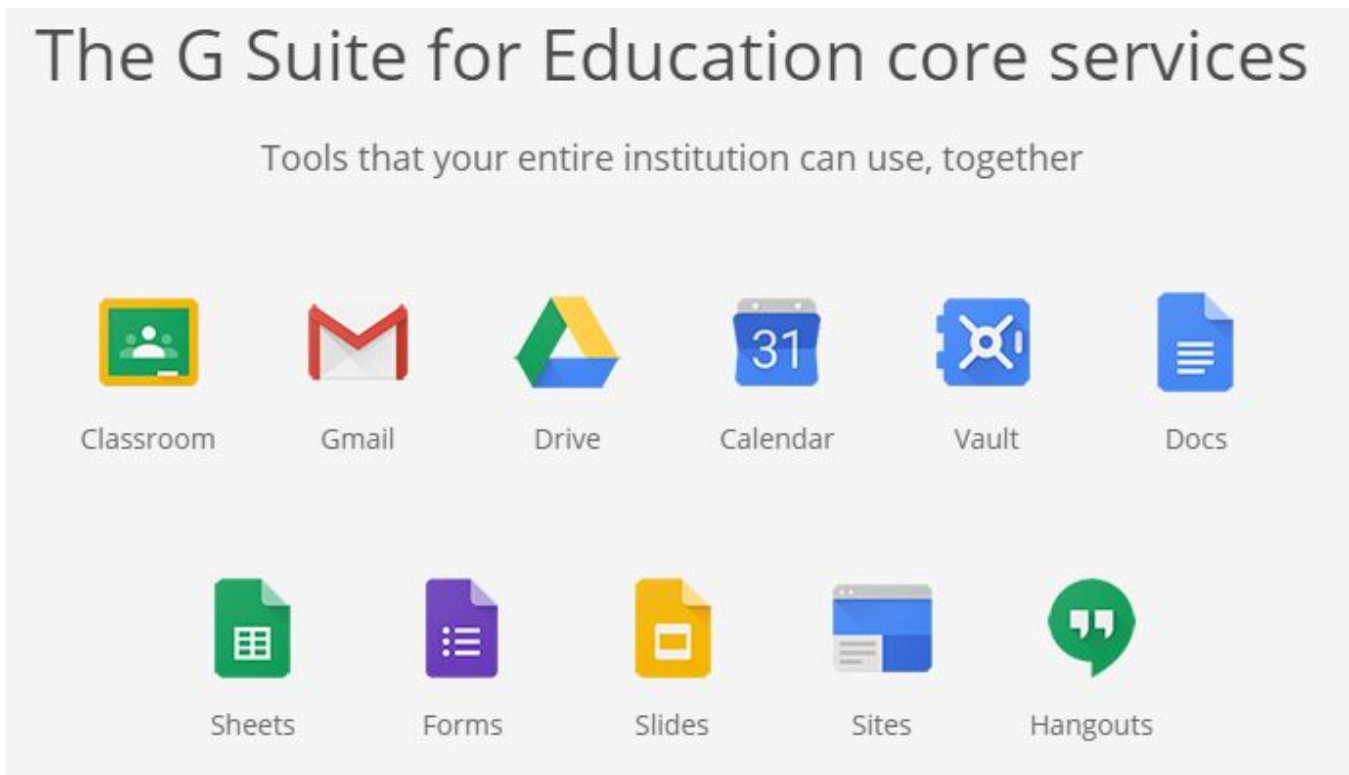
Many thanks to the many of you who have shown your support already.

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# Why G-Suite for Education?



**Cloud** and web based services are quickly becoming the norm when it comes to information storage, communication, administration and straightforward word and data processing. A number of the principal providers are offering similar services. Microsoft, Apple and Google are all competing for business in this arena, so why would you opt for Google's version?

Google made the decision at an early stage to focus on the education sector, and to produce a range of applications which would attract schools, colleges and universities. They have provided a service which is **FREE** to education establishments, and which guarantees security and privacy, with NO advertising and full compliance with all data protection regulations. They have also developed extremely powerful tools such as 'Google Classroom', which is tailored for educators and students of every age and ability.

Students now use **Gmail** to communicate with each other when they are working on projects together, while teachers use it to allocate tasks and provide feedback on homework. Add 'Events' straight from email to calendar, set up any number of groups; easily search for sent or received emails.



G-Suite for education accounts now come with free access to **Google Vault**: Our administrators can manage, retain and search through the whole organisation's email. A powerful archive which preserves data, aiding student safeguarding and guaranteeing accurate recording of communication between all account users.



**Drive:** Students can save all their work files in Google Drive, access them from their chromebook or computer in school, at home or anywhere they can access the internet. They can be shared with teachers, friends and family. There are NO capacity limits set on data storage for any of the users within the G-Suite environment...



**Google docs:** Students can create and edit docs, spreadsheets and presentations. Students can work in groups or pairs on single presentations, and do so from anywhere. Staff can comment and make suggestions on improvements, and access students' work from any device, at school or at home.



Teaching staff can work collaboratively on Schemes of Work, prepare classroom resources together, and easily share them between colleagues. Excellent resources for teaching can be shared between staff for the benefit of the students



Students can still use Microsoft Word whenever they need, and files can be converted between 'Word' and 'Docs' at any time. They can download as 'Word', 'Powerpoint' or 'Excel' versions if required, and upload in either format. Convert and download as pdf too, if you need.

**Google Calendar:** allows students to create and edit events such as lunch time activities, homework or other simple reminders. Homework or announcements created in Google classroom can be set to show on students' calendars, with the option for it also to be displayed on parents' own personal calendars, enabling them to track homework and deadlines.



**Google Forms:** Staff (or students) can create and edit questionnaires and quizzes using Google Forms. These can be extremely useful to inform staff about student progress, or get feedback about lessons. They can be used to collect information and opinions from parents, staff or students and export responses direct to a spreadsheet.

**Google Classroom:** is a unique environment where staff can establish a virtual 'classroom' for each of their teaching groups. They can set homework assignments, share resources, make announcements, track student activity, and grade work completed by students, where deadlines automatically appear on their calendar. You can also bring parents/guardians into the classroom, so they will receive notifications of homework and deadlines for completion too.



Teachers can quickly view students' work online (from anywhere you can access the internet, and on any device). They comment on their progress, and email individuals or the whole class from within the 'Classroom'.

Teachers receive emails notifying them of any changes made to students' work, allowing them to see when, and for how long a student has been active, and allowing students to ask questions or request feedback on work in progress. Resources can be uploaded to the Classroom, so that Schemes of Learning, revision guides, links to useful websites, and 'e-textbooks' can all be available to the student whenever they need them.

Staff can set up templates for students work and create differentiated resources that suit the individual student. Whilst in the classroom they can also monitor what the students are working on, seeing their documents 'live' as they are actually typing.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google\\_Classroom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Classroom)