Webcams

If you already have a computer but it does not have a built in webcam, you can purchase a webcam that plugs in to your computer via the USB port. Most USB webcams also contain a built-in microphone, so you won't need to buy a microphone as well.

When picking out a webcam the main specification to check is the **resolution**. This might be expressed in different ways, for example an image width and height in pixels, or a number followed by the letter "p" that represents the image height in pixels. **You should look for a camera that is at least 720p (1280x720 pixels) or better.**

Example: The Logitech C270 webcam is a 720p webcam available from Argos at https://www.argos.co.uk/product/4034924 for £24.99.

Please Note: Long Road Sixth Form College does not endorse the above mentioned retailer or product or provide support for the product, the information is provided simply as an example of what to look for when purchasing.

Laptops

If you don't already have a computer, or you have a computer but it's an older computer or is not quite up to the job of remote learning on the courses you are on, we suggest buying a laptop as this will have a built-in webcam and microphone for remote learning and you can bring it in to college to use on the college Wi-Fi on weeks when you are scheduled to do on-site learning.

Your choice of laptop may need to be tailored towards the types of courses you are on; students who are on Art, Computing, D&T, Film, Graphic Design, Media or Photography courses will need to look at higher performance machines which will be more expensive.

For the majority of courses, consider a laptop with these specifications (or better):

- **Processor:** Intel Core i3 or AMD Ryzen 3
- **Memory:** 4 gigabytes (GB)
- **Storage:** 128 gigabytes (GB) solid-state drive (SSD)
- Built-in webcam and microphone
- **Operating system:** Windows 10

Example: The Acer Aspire 3 laptop available from Currys PC World at https://www.currys.co.uk/gbuk/computing/laptops/laptops/acer-aspire-3-15-6-laptop-intel-core-i3-128-gb-ssd-black-10209184-pdt.html for £379.00.

Please Note: Long Road Sixth Form College does not endorse the above mentioned retailer or product or provide support for the product, the information is provided simply as an example of what to look for when purchasing.

For Art, Computing, D&T, Film, Graphic Design, Media or Photography courses, consider a laptop with these specifications (or better):

- **Processor:** Intel Core i3 10th generation, AMD Ryzen 3 3000-series
- **Memory:** 8 gigabytes (GB)
- **Storage:** 256 gigabytes (GB) solid-state drive (SSD)
- Built-in webcam and microphone
- **Operating system:** Windows 10

Example: The HP Pavilion 14 laptop available from Currys PC World at https://www.currys.co.uk/gbuk/computing/laptops/laptops/hp-pavilion-14-ce3610sa-14-laptop-intel-core-i3-256-gb-ssd-white-10203931-pdt.html for £499.00.

Please Note: Long Road Sixth Form College does not endorse the above mentioned retailer or product or provide support for the product, the information is provided simply as an example of what to look for when purchasing.

Software

Other than Microsoft Windows, which should be included with the laptop, **you should not need to purchase any additional software** as most software needed for courses is either available FREE or is provided by the college to you FREE while you are a student at Long Road.

For all students: Microsoft Office 365 (which includes Microsoft Teams) is available to download and install FREE by logging in to www.office.com with your college email address and password and clicking the "Install Office" button. Once the software is installed you can login to it using your college email address and password.

For all students: You will need antivirus software installed on your new laptop. The college uses Sophos antivirus and Sophos produces a Home edition of their software which is available FREE at https://home.sophos.com/en-us.aspx by clicking the "Free Download" button.

For all students: You can access files stored on your college U: drive by installing the Foldr app, which is available FREE at https://foldr.io/products/foldr-for-files/microsoft-windows - the server name you will need to use with this app is `foldr.longroad.ac.uk` and you login using your college username and password.

For students on Art, Computing, D&T, Film, Graphic Design, Media or Photography courses: Adobe Creative Cloud is available to download and install FREE for students on these courses, by logging in to https://creativecloud.adobe.com, choosing a "Company or School Account" and logging in with your college email address and password. You can then download and install the Creative Cloud App which will allow you to install Adobe software including Photoshop, Illustrator or Premiere Pro.

For students on Computing or Media courses: Visual Studio 2019 is available in a FREE "Community" edition which you can download and install from https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/downloads/ by clicking the "Free download" button. As part of the Visual Studio installation you can also choose to install other tools you may need - such as Python or the Unity3D game development tools - at the same time as installing Visual Studio.

For students on Computing courses: Visual Studio Code is available as a FREE download from https://code.visualstudio.com/ by clicking the "Download for Windows" button.

For students on D&T courses: A student home edition of Techsoft 2D Design V2 is available upon request from the IT Services Department, you will need to bring your student ID card and a USB stick or USB hard drive with at least 500MB of free space up to the IT Services office in order to receive this.

For students on D&T and Media courses: Autodesk software products such as AutoCAD, Maya, Arnold, Mudbox and 3DS Max are available in a FREE 1-year license from Autodesk's Education site at https://www.autodesk.com/education/edu-software/overview?sorting=featured&page=1. You can renew the license each year providing you are still a student at that time.

For students on Maths courses: The Autograph 5 maths software is available as a FREE download from https://completemaths.com/autograph by clicking the "Download For Free" button.

For students on Languages & Media courses: The Audacity audio software is available as a FREE download from https://www.audacityteam.org/ by clicking the "Download Audacity" button.

For students on Music courses: The MuseScore music scoring software is available as a FREE download from https://musescore.org/en by clicking the "Free Download" button.

For students on Chemistry courses: The ACD/ChemSketch software is available as a FREE download from https://www.acdlabs.com/resources/freeware/chemsketch/ by clicking the "Download Free Version" button.