It is our great pleasure to announce the next stage in the evolution of learning at SCEGGS. For more than 15 years, SCEGGS has provided significant technological access in every classroom, usually in the form of desktop computers. Over the next three years, we will introduce a 1:1 Tablet PC program, where every girl in Years 5-12 will have their own laptop, and we will expand access to technology in K-4 classrooms. The 1:1 program will create many exciting possibilities for learning in a 21st century classroom including increased flexibility and more authentic and connected learning experiences. We want our students to be even more engaged! The significant grants currently available as part of the Federal Government’s Digital Education Revolution will allow us to implement this program at a much lower cost to parents than would otherwise be possible. The Board and the staff of SCEGGS are excited about this new technological provision and the dynamic learning opportunities and possibilities it will provide to expand the richness of a SCEGGS education.

Jenny Allum Sharon Cook
Head of School Chair, Board of Directors

Our Vision for Education
For more than 100 years, SCEGGS has provided a broad, liberal education for our girls. We aim to educate our students to become confident, competent and articulate young women in an environment which values diversity and individuality. And what do we want for your daughter here at SCEGGS in the 21st century? That she is happy and enjoys school; that she experiences both challenges and successes in her learning; that she is independent and can collaborate effectively as part of a team; that she strives to achieve her best; that she is compassionate, resilient and confident; that she is flexible in her thinking, competent and ready to take her place in society.

There is no doubt that technological developments over the last few years have transformed our lives generally in so many ways. Just five years ago, there was no iPhone or Twitter, Facebook had only just been opened to everyone and Google Earth had recently been released. In that same five years, the reliability and power of wireless networks have grown exponentially and modern laptops are now lightweight, fast and reliable, have powerful processors and batteries that will last a whole day without needing to be recharged. In a world that is constantly changing, at a rate that is faster than ever before, it is essential that we affirm our intention to equip our students for the future through the best possible education.

Over the next three years, SCEGGS will implement a 1:1 Tablet PC program, in which every girl in Years 5-12 will have their own Lenovo Tablet PC. This 1:1
Program will allow us to continue to value excellence and academic rigour in our teaching and learning, whilst capitalising on the opportunities to create a dynamic 21st century learning environment.

In considering the potential of a 1:1 program in the classroom, it is clear that the provision of the right learning tool in the hands of every girl, in every lesson, will allow our teachers to expand the power of what is possible in the learning environment on a daily basis - to utilise real world data, to solve more complex problems, to create simulations and ask deeper ‘what if’ questions. The increasing maturity in the educational software market has also meant that the uses of IT in a classroom extend well beyond using the internet. It will allow our students greater access to SCEGGSnet, to create digital portfolios and to initiate communication with their teachers, as well as using the latest, subject specific software in areas as diverse as Mathematics, Geography and Music, to name a few. And our 1:1 program will allow teachers even greater capacity to differentiate learning in the classroom - the pace, the content and the process can be tailored to the individual needs of the student, creating increased flexibility in our classrooms and ready, spontaneous access for all students. It will expand the opportunities our teachers can provide in every lesson and allow teachers to utilise the power of technology when it is just right.

However, it is also very clear that technology can only ever be just one of the tools that will form part of a SCEGGS education. In all classrooms, our girls will continue to discuss, debate, create, analyse, synthesise, communicate and evaluate - with and without the use of technology. We will continue to emphasise the importance of sustained application, and value depth and quality of thought. It is essential that our girls are fluent users of technology, able to craft and refine a written argument online, for example, but likewise it is equally important that they can craft an argument from beginning to end using the thinking skills required for pen to paper work. The craft of teaching is to develop the broadest range of skills in our girls, and the skills of discernment to know when a technological solution is most effective - and when it is not.

The Device to Take us Forward
After extensive investigation over the last year, we have chosen a Lenovo Tablet PC as the most appropriate device for SCEGGS. Tablet PCs provide the best of all worlds because they provide:

- powerful computing capacity including the ability to run high end applications such as the Adobe Master Collection and Sibelius
- a sophisticated electronic pen application, allowing students to write, sketch, annotate and draw
- the ability to run Flash animations and Java based applications
- integration with other personal devices like iPhones, iPods and other MP3 players
- ergonomically sound keyboards
- inbuilt webcams and microphones

The Lenovo brand has a number of features that make it our preferred brand, being light weight (approximately 2kg), possessing excellent battery life (which can last a full day with typical usage), offering rugged construction, excellent performance and superior support.
Implementing Change 2012 - 2014

To ensure the smooth and effective introduction of this program, implementation will be rolled out in three phases:

**Phase 1:** Semester 2, 2012: Tablets provided to Year 5 and Year 9

**Phase 2:** Semester 1, 2013: Tablets provided to all students in Years 5-11

**Phase 3:** Semester 1, 2014: Tablets provided to Years 5-12 and increased access in K-4 classrooms

Leasing (or similar) arrangements will facilitate the provision of a new tablet for every girl every two years. It is envisaged that Years 7-12 will use the tablet both at school and home whilst, initially, Years 5-6 will utilise their tablets at school. After the initial rollout, the girls will receive a new device in each of Year 5, 7, 9 and 11. This will allow the school the flexibility to continue to select the most appropriate device to facilitate learning, even as technology continues to evolve at a rapid rate.

An essential component of the implementation of 1:1 computing at SCEGGS will be the education of our girls about the ethical use of technology and the importance of their own personal, digital footprint. In a technology rich 21st century learning environment, it is essential that our girls learn about cybersafety in a practical context, about managing their time and the distractions posed by social media. We can monitor the websites that are accessed by students, ensuring they are appropriate and that our girls are educated about being safe online. We will continue to emphasise the importance of inter-personal skills and face to face communication in our technology age, aiming to ensure our girls develop friendships, socialise and relate well to each other in the classroom, playground and outside of school. These are all lifelong skills that are essential in preparing our girls for the future.

Managing the logistical components of the implementation is equally important. As more and more textbooks and learning resources are available digitally, the 1:1 program will ultimately allow us to remove the majority of these books from the girls’ bags each day. We will also underline the important ergonomic aspects of using technology to the girls. The expansion of our Student Helpdesk will allow girls instant access to IT support – offering charging facilities, spare batteries and the provision of ‘hot spares’ in the event that a device is damaged and needs to be repaired.

The Cost

In 2012, there will be no change to the Technology Levy, which will remain at $500. From 2013 onwards, the Technology Levy will be calculated to cover the costs of the provision of a new tablet every two years, which is estimated to be approximately $700 per year. We recognise the very significant investment that all SCEGGS families are making in their daughter’s education, and we will continue to do everything possible to provide the best education we can in the most economical way possible. After extensive investigation, we are confident that we can provide our families with new tablets for use at home and school every two years, together with highly sophisticated educational software and strong, technical support, for significantly less than individual families could obtain in the retail context. This is particularly true when one considers that this package will also contain an extended warranty, insurance and a significant suite of high end applications such as Microsoft Office Professional and Adobe Master Collection.
Keeping Our Community Informed

Throughout 2012 we will continue to keep parents, girls and other members of the SCEGGS community informed about our 1:1 program, through newsletters, emails and the SCEGGS website. We know that many parents will appreciate the opportunity to hear about the program in more detail and so we have also planned a number of Parent Evenings for specific Year groups to ensure that parents are all well informed about the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

You may already be thinking of a host of questions about this exciting new direction in learning. Issues like:

Why have we chosen PCs and not Macs?
How will my daughter be taught to use and look after the tablet?
What happens if my daughter loses the tablet?
What should we be doing at home to keep our child safe?

The answers to these questions and many other FAQs can already be found on our website by following this url – http://tinyurl.com/TabletFAQs. We encourage you to access this now. You are also welcome to call the school and chat with our senior staff:

- Jenny Allum  Head of School
- Anne Titterton  Deputy Head of School
- Holly Gyton  Director of Curriculum
- Liz Cumming  Head of Primary
- Joan Mara  Director of Pastoral Care
- Ian Ralph  Director of IT
- Sue Pynenburg  Business Manager

We look forward to talking to you about this exciting new program in the weeks and months ahead.