Computer Specification - suggestions

As technology is advancing at a steady rate a specification of this sort can rapidly become out of date. At the time of writing the following specification would provide a reasonably priced computer with adequate capability and should not become obsolete in the near future.

All pupils will have access to computer facilities in school. However, in response to previous enquiries from parents, we include the following for information :

Computer	A mid-range desktop or laptop computer costing no more than £400 should be more than adequate to support a student's studies at Thomas Mills High School. It should be capable of accessing the internet and editing documents. Low specification machines are cheaper but may quickly become inadequate.
USB Pen Drive	The school has an intranet and storage cloud solution which allows students to access their files and resources from outside. In most cases this will be adequate but a USB drive may be required for larger files. USB drives should not be seen as a reliable single location to store files as they fail completely quite regularly. Currently the School Finance Office has a stock of pen drives for sale to pupils at a cost of £4.50 each. Prices are subject to change.
Software	The school generally uses Microsoft Office applications such as Word, Excel, Publisher and we currently use Office 2016. Staff / student licences can be purchased at a much reduced rate. Free alternatives are available but may offer only limited compatibility.
Printer	A basic colour Inkjet printer will cost from under £22 but it is worth looking carefully at the printing speed and the cost of replacement ink cartridges. Cheaper models can be frustratingly slow and very expensive to replace cartridges. Black and white laser printers start from about £60, colour from about £170.

Depending on the final specification selected, it is possible to find a computer with a reasonable specification for under £400, excluding the cost of a printer. Prices and specifications are, however, are constantly changing.

Tablet devices such as Apple Ipads may offer some of the features of a computer but have limited document creation and editing functions and IPads will not display some websites correctly.

September 2016