

The image features the word "Lenovo" in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally. To the right of the word is a small "TM" trademark symbol. The background is a vibrant red with a repeating pattern of circular, textured elements that resemble the perforated surface of a laptop's palm rest.

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BYOD IN EDUCATION: LOWANNA COLLEGE SHOWS HOW TO GET IT DONE RIGHT.

Lowanna College's Matt Robinson talks about the BYOD Journey and how it has revolutionized education for students, educators and parents.

2016.10

Case Study

ThinkPad

“For the first time, educators have the flexibility to remotely manage and assess assignments, as well as facilitate student management and well-being.”



—**Matt Robinson**
The ICT Manager, Lowanna College

BYOD JOURNEY AND EXPERIENCE

Let's face it. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) has had a mixed track record. On paper, BYOD can be deceptively straightforward – just choose a personal device that you can afford, be comfortable and productive with. But the reality is that poor BYOD policy planning, the wrong technology choices or a poorly executed rollout can leave both users and IT departments frustrated.

Lowanna College, a community school serving a small town in Victoria,

Australia, has got BYOD all figured out. Established in 1994, the school currently has a student strength of around 1,000. And 70 percent of it's students have a tablet or laptop – an amazing feat, especially when they come from low- to middle-income families, where technology can be considered a costly proposition.

We spoke with Matt Robinson, the ICT Manager at Lowanna College, about their college's BYOD journey and experience.

Has BYOD truly revolutionized education?

Absolutely! The impact can be felt by the students, parents and our educators. It's a win-win-win situation for everyone, thanks to the devices and Cloud-based learning platform put in place by Lowanna College.

Overall, communication and sharing between all parties have improved tremendously. 24/7 learning for the students is finally a reality with BYOD.

Online assignments allow them to pick up where they left off at home, and also communicate with their teachers via email.

As for their parents, it is now possible to connect directly with multiple teachers simultaneously, and monitor their child's learning journey via digitized progress and semester reports - saving time and commuting effort!



“The Thinkpad Yoga 11e is amazingly flexible. It is both a laptop packing a tactile keyboard as well as a tablet, delivering two different user experiences in a compact package.”



Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 11e

Learnings to share with other educational institutions?

The transition to BYOD wasn't easy. Back in 2008, the Australian government started an educational reform program and provided funding for high school students from years 9 to 12 to purchase laptops.

When funding ran out in 2013, Lowanna College began offering a BYOD

program, but conversations with parents were tough especially after they had been accustomed to having computers funded by the government.

Effective communication on the part of our IT staff was instrumental to the success of BYOD adoption at Lowanna College. We had many parent meetings prior to rolling out BYOD just to assuage their initial doubts and skepticisms.

Let's talk about the devices.

The Lenovo Thinkpad Yoga 11e, is by far the most popular choice among our students and parents. Students like the functionality and versatility that the Yoga 11e offers. For example, one of the best features students like is the Yoga's 360-degree Flip-and-Fold design, which allows them to research in tablet mode, and then move into laptop mode to type and document their findings.

What are the important considerations for your IT department?

For the IT department, durability, design and screen quality are very important when you consider the robust usage by students. In these areas, the Thinkpad Yoga 11e is second to none. These Lenovo devices just work.

I would not hesitate to recommend this product. The Lenovo support behind the device has been great. Lenovo has also supported the Victorian government vendor Edunet, which works closely with them to provide the Yoga device and professional services. Best of all, these are packaged together so that it becomes incredibly easy for our parents to purchase a device for their child.

So what's the next chapter on your BYOD journey?

Providing access to technology 24/7, at home and school, is absolutely essential in preparing our students for the real world. Our ultimate goal is to get a device into the hands of every student, regardless of their family's financial situation.

Looking ahead, Lowanna College is planning to support smartphones as a BYOD device as early as 2017. We want every student to get equal opportunity to benefit from cloud-based learning.





Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 11e



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