

GRADES 7 & 8 | - |

Sixth Grade Parent Coffee

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POSITIVE IMPACT OF HAVING A LAPTOP AT HOME

- encourages independence - student is “in charge” of his / her own education
- encourages communication - teachers do often check email after-hours to respond to student queries; online discussions allow communication to extend beyond class block
- resources are always available: no fighting with siblings or parents to do research or work on a project; there are no worries about compatibility: applications used to start work in school will always be available at home
- encourages creativity - kids will often go beyond or in a different direction from what they are learning in school to create new types of content

CHALLENGES TO BE FACED FROM HAVING A LAPTOP AT HOME

- Unkind behavior is sometimes easier when you can't see your victim
- the internet can provide access to content not appropriate for middle school students
- time management is a skill that needs to be learned

TEACHING STUDENTS SKILLS FOR OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

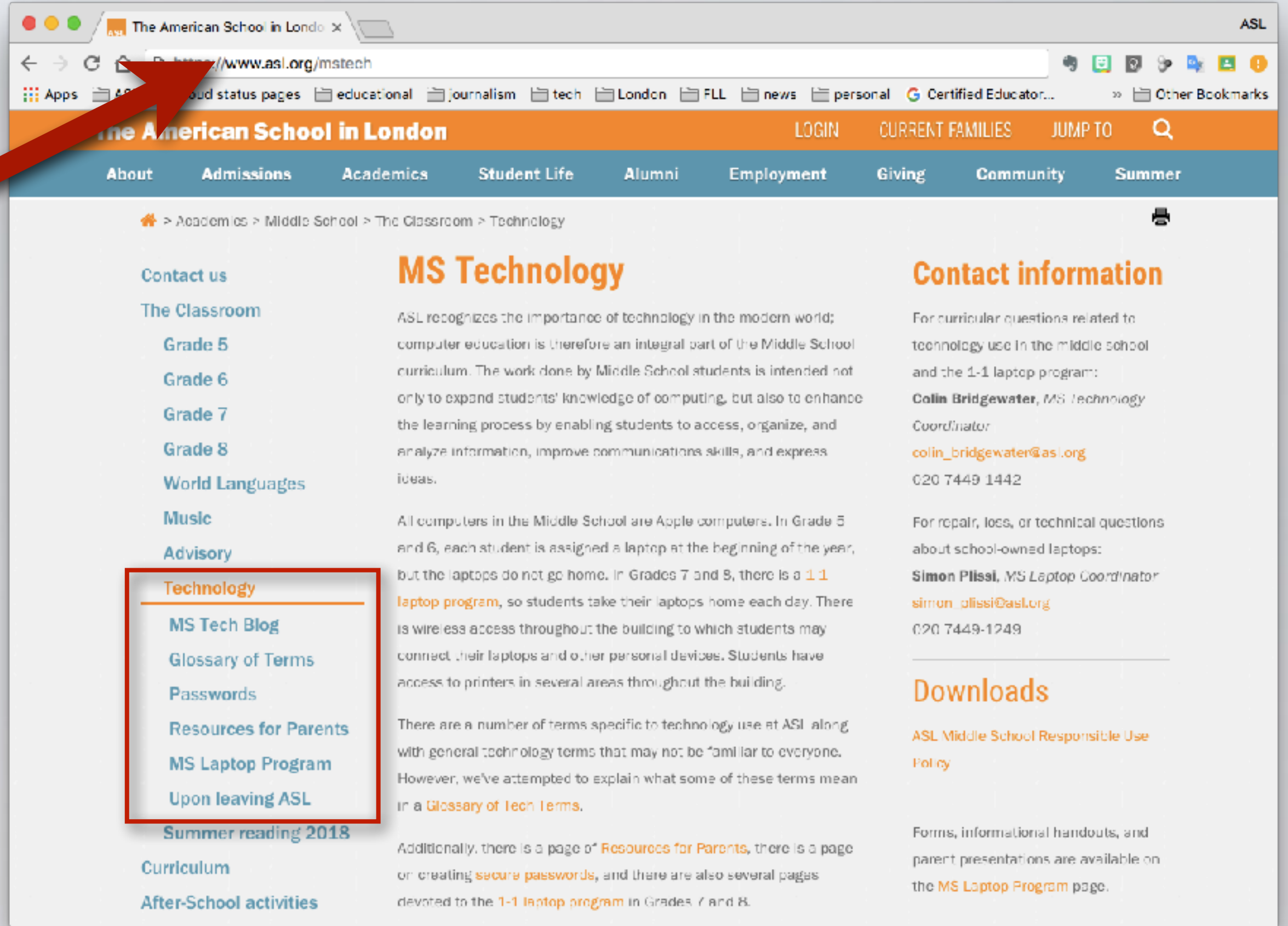
- Time given to write all assignments down in Homework Diary; students are encouraged to plan out their week, taking into account other activities.
- Long-term projects are often broken down into chunks.
- Good time management / focus skills are modeled in class (restriction on checking email / social media during work time); this is backed-up with research-based mini lessons in advisory.
- Rescue Time is installed on laptops to allow student access to objective data about their laptop use.
- Digital Citizenship is taught in 5th, 6th, 7th ,and 8th grade advisories. Health classes also focus on internet safety and the importance of being an upstander.

WHAT WILL BE USEFUL AT HOME?

- As with everything you teach your children, begin to talk about the issues before they become problems (alcohol, smoking, curfew, TV time, internet use, time spent on laptop)
- Humans learn from their experiences, even negative ones
- Supervision is the key, especially at first.
- It's easier to be strict at first and then give more freedom than it is to try to tighten the reins later
- Provide clear, objective guidelines and consequences; consider a family Technology Agreement
- Qustodio can be installed on request.

OTHER RESOURCES

[http://
www.asl.org/
mstech](http://www.asl.org/mstech)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.asl.org/mstech> in the address bar. The page title is "The American School in London". The navigation bar includes links for LOGIN, CURRENT FAMILIES, JUMP TO, and a search icon. The main navigation menu includes About, Admissions, Academics, Student Life, Alumni, Employment, Giving, Community, and Summer. The breadcrumb trail is: Academics > Middle School > The Classroom > Technology.

Contact us
The Classroom
[Grade 5](#)
[Grade 6](#)
[Grade 7](#)
[Grade 8](#)
[World Languages](#)
[Music](#)
[Advisory](#)
Technology
[MS Tech Blog](#)
[Glossary of Terms](#)
[Passwords](#)
[Resources for Parents](#)
[MS Laptop Program](#)
[Upon leaving ASL](#)
[Summer reading 2018](#)
[Curriculum](#)
[After-School activities](#)

MS Technology

ASL recognizes the importance of technology in the modern world; computer education is therefore an integral part of the Middle School curriculum. The work done by Middle School students is intended not only to expand students' knowledge of computing, but also to enhance the learning process by enabling students to access, organize, and analyze information, improve communications skills, and express ideas.

All computers in the Middle School are Apple computers. In Grade 5 and 6, each student is assigned a laptop at the beginning of the year, but the laptops do not go home. In Grades 7 and 8, there is a **1-1 laptop program**, so students take their laptops home each day. There is wireless access throughout the building to which students may connect their laptops and other personal devices. Students have access to printers in several areas throughout the building.

There are a number of terms specific to technology use at ASL along with general technology terms that may not be familiar to everyone. However, we've attempted to explain what some of these terms mean in a [Glossary of Tech Terms](#).

Additionally, there is a page of [Resources for Parents](#), there is a page on creating [secure passwords](#), and there are also several pages devoted to the **1-1 laptop program** in Grades 7 and 8.

Contact information

For curricular questions related to technology use in the middle school and the 1-1 laptop program:
Colin Bridgewater, *MS Technology Coordinator*
colin_bridgewater@asl.org
020 7449 1442

For repair, loss, or technical questions about school-owned laptops:
Simon Plissi, *MS Laptop Coordinator*
simon_plissi@asl.org
020 7449-1249

Downloads

[ASL Middle School Responsible Use Policy](#)

Forms, informational handouts, and parent presentations are available on the [MS Laptop Program](#) page.

OTHER RESOURCES

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.asl.org/page.cfm?p=7101>. The page is titled "The American School in London" and features a navigation bar with links: About, Admissions, Academics, Student Life, Alumni, Employment, Giving, Community, and Summer. The main content area is titled "MS Laptop Rollout 2017-18" and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Middle School > The Classroom > Technology > MS Laptop Program > Laptop Rollout 2017-18. A sidebar on the left lists various resources: Contact us, The Classroom (with links for Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8, World Languages, Music, and Advisory), Technology (with links for MS Tech Blog, Glossary of Terms, Passwords, Resources for Parents, MS Laptop Program, MS Laptop FAQ - Grades 5-6, and MS Laptop FAQ - Grades 7-8), and Laptop Rollout 2017-18. The main content area explains that the page is for parents/guardians of all Grade 7 students (class of 2023) and parents/guardians of Grade 8 students (class of 2022) who are new to ASL this year. It states that before August 31, parents/guardians must watch a video, download and read three documents, and then check the boxes and submit the form at the bottom of the page to acknowledge their responsibilities as a partner in the school laptop program. It also notes that parents/guardians will not be able to pick up their child's laptop at Back to School Night on August 31 until this form has been submitted. A video player titled "MS Laptop Rollout 2017" is shown, with the text "What's included" and a list of items: Always-on protective case, Spare loaner computers, A range of software is installed or available to download through the ASL Managed Software Center application, and External hard drive provided to back up data. A thumbnail image of a laptop is also visible.

MS Laptop Rollout 2017-18

This page is for parents/guardians of all Grade 7 students (class of 2023) and parents/guardians of Grade 8 students (class of 2022) who are new to ASL this year.

Before August 31, please watch the video below, download and read the three documents below the video, and then check the boxes and submit the form at the bottom of this page to acknowledge that you understand your responsibilities as a partner in this school laptop program.

Parents/guardians will not be able to pick up their child's laptop at Back to School Night on August 31 until this form has been submitted.

What's included

- ☐ Always-on protective case
- ☐ Spare loaner computers
- ☐ A range of software is installed or available to download through the ASL Managed Software Center application
- ☐ External hard drive provided to back up data

SUPPORT NEXT YEAR

Date To be confirmed...

Back to School Night: Parents are the first ones to take the laptops home

Early-Mid October

Grade 5-8 parent session on managing tech in the home

Thursday and Friday, October 25-26

Drop in Q & A / hands-on help during Fall Parent Conference Time

WHAT NEXT?

- If you haven't already done so, begin to talk to your child about expectations and limits of technology use in your home
- Apply the same guidelines for technology use as for other house rules
- When questions arise, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the middle school technology coordinator

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