

Here is a recommended spec for the laptops for 5th Year Students 2026/27:

Processor:

Minimum: Intel Core i3 (10th Gen or newer), i5 would be better. Alternatively AMD Ryzen 3 (3000 series or newer) - These processors will provide enough power for running productivity applications like Word, PowerPoint, and Teams smoothly.

Memory (RAM):

Minimum: 8GB RAM - This will allow students to multitask between applications without significant slowdowns.

Storage:

Minimum: 256GB Solid State Drive (SSD) - An SSD offers faster boot times, application loading, and overall responsiveness compared to a traditional hard drive.

Additional Considerations:

- **Screen Size:** 11" - 14" is a good range for portability while offering enough for working on documents.
- **Battery Life:** Aim for at least 8 hours of battery life to ensure students can last through a school day without needing to recharge.
- **Durability:** Look for a laptop with a sturdy build quality that can withstand the wear and tear of everyday use in a school environment.
- **Operating System:** Windows 11 is the latest version and will be compatible with all the applications you mentioned.
- **Anti-virus software:** Windows 11 comes with pre-installed anti-virus though some students may wish to consider an extra package for additional security.
- **Warranty:** A good warranty is important, especially for devices used in schools.

Note that there is no requirement to buy Office365 as part of the laptop package as all St.Benildus accounts come with free downloadable versions as part of their Office accounts.

Sample Devices:

Asus Vivobook 16: <https://www.currys.ie/products/asus-vivobook-16-x1605ea-16-laptop-intel-core-i3-256-gb-ssd-silver-10251620.html>

Acer Aspire 3: <https://www.currys.ie/products/acer-aspire-3-15.6-laptop-intel-core-i3-256-gb-ssd-silver-10238901.html>

Please note these are only sample devices. Buying direct from a manufacturers website could be cheaper. Alternatively check <https://greenit.ie/> for good quality refurbished laptops, often you will get a far higher spec at a reduced rate.