Connecting to the Internet at Home

Connecting to the internet at home will not be the same for all families. It will depend on the type of broadband connection you have. Some families will have a wireless network and this is the easiest system to connect to. When the MacBook is opened at home, a dialogue box will appear asking you to join a network. Ignore this. Different locations have been established in the MacBook’s Network Preferences: Automatic, Home and School. You can access Locations through the Apple menu in the left hand corner of the top menu bar. Open Locations and click on Home. If you have wi-fi, your computer will ask you which network you’d like to join. If your network is password protected, you will be prompted to enter a password. Check the box to remember this network. You should now be connected without having to do anything else.

When your child returns to school, they should open Locations and click on School. This has been specifically set up to operate through DET’s proxy server.

Remember that Locations should always be changed to indicate where the user is, and this will avoid any networking conflicts. The Automatic Location may be used whenever you are connecting to a different network, like a wi-fi hotspot at McDonalds or at a friend’s house.

If you connect to the internet using ethernet (typically a blue or grey cable connecting your computer and router), there are a couple of possible scenarios. Your router may only have one port, meaning you can only connect one computer at any one time. If this is the case, you would need to disconnect your home computer’s ethernet cable and plug it into the MacBook. Make sure that you have changed the Location to Home. See above for instructions on changing Locations.

Your router however may have a number of ports, allowing you to connect more than one computer at a time. If this is the case, you will require an additional ethernet cable. Select the Home Location in the Apple menu, plug in the cable, and that should be all you need to do.

If you have problems, you may need to copy your home network settings into the MacBook’s Network Preferences. If this is all beginning to get too difficult, write me a note in your child’s log book or give me a ring, and I’ll help you through what needs to be done.