Pearson Tutoring

Technical Checks

Before you get started, you'll need to carry out some **essential technical checks** to ensure your students' experience on our tutoring platform, Bramble, is the best it can be. We would urge you to go ahead and do this before you receive your booking codes, so that you'll be good to go.

We've split these into a **Quick Start Guide**, which covers the essentials, and **Detailed Technical Guidance** for more specific checks.

Quick start guide - Two simple steps to get ready for online tutoring

All our online tutoring will be delivered on Bramble. Follow the two simple steps below to make sure you and your students are ready to go!

1. Check your school's network

Some school firewalls may initially block Bramble from working but it's easy to check and resolve – simply follow these instructions or send them on to your school IT lead:

2. Check your school's equipment

We strongly recommend using a **laptop or PC** for accessing Bramble, with the **latest version of Google Chrome** as your browser. If you only have access to an Android tablet or iPad, then you can still join live lessons on Bramble – they just aren't quite as reliable as a laptop or PC.

Your students will also need:

- microphone
- headphones
- webcam

Most laptops have a microphone built in, but if you need to get some, then headphones with an inline microphone are the best option. Headphones also help to reduce any echo or feedback. We recommend that each computer is equipped with a working webcam if possible. You can test your equipment and connectivity here.

Detailed technical guidance

Browsers

The best browser to use is the latest version of Google Chrome, as it provides full support for Bramble's cutting-edge features. Chrome can be downloaded on to any laptop or computer from here.

Operating system	Browser
Windows	Chrome
Mac	Chrome
Chrome OS	Chrome
iOS	Safari
Android	Chrome

Operating systems

Most laptops operating Windows 10, MacOS or ChromeOS should work well, as should any Android/iOS device running the latest version of its operating system. However, you may want to check that the devices your students will be using support the latest software.

- Windows: To find out which version of Windows your devices are running, press the Windows logo key + R, type winver in the Open box and then select OK.
- ChromeOS: Select Settings. At the bottom of the left panel, select About Chrome OS. Under 'Google Chrome OS', you'll find which version of the Chrome operating system that your Chromebook uses.
- iOS devices: Select Settings - General – Software update and you will be able to see which version you have.

The recommended versions are:

Operating system	Processor	OS Version
Windows	Core i3 or better	10+
Mac	Core i3 or better	10.12+
Chrome OS	Core i3 or better	70+
iOS	-	12.1+
Android	-	9+

Internet connection

Recommended speeds for the best experience are shown below. You can check your internet connection [here](#).

	Download	Upload
Recommended	15 Mbps	10 Mbps
Minimum	5 Mbps	5 Mbps

Webcams

We recommend that each computer is equipped with a working webcam. Although cameras will not be used for the teaching part of each tutorial, which is done via the interactive Bramble Notebook, there may be times during lessons when students are asked to hold up notes or other work so that the tutor can capture an image of it on screen. Also, the tutor may wish to start or finish a lesson with cameras turned on.

Optional extra devices

Bramble is designed to work using just a computer and mouse but other devices such as touchscreen laptops can make drawing on the Notebook easier. Students could use a tablet as a secondary device (in addition to the main laptop or desktop computer), which will enhance their ability to write and draw on the Bramble Notebook. You can find more information about suitable hardware [here](#).

School email addresses

Each student will need an individual school email address before they can access Bramble.

More support

Familiarise yourself with the Bramble platform first so you can work with your students to make sure they are fully prepared. This short video walks through the key functionality that the tutors and students will be using.

You could also send your students to the student guide, which takes them through the set-up process and allows them to see for themselves how Bramble works.

Students can also watch a more detailed walkthrough showing all the functionality of Bramble and how to get the most out of their tutoring sessions here.

You can also find more information getting started on the Bramble help page.