

Asus X540LA

With the school, college and university year starting, now is the perfect time to start looking at new laptops. If you or your daughter/son is after a new laptop to help deal with assignments and research with, then take a look at the Asus X540LA.

For starters, the price is very reasonable. Setting you back £450 (which is a steal in my opinion). It comes with a standard 15.6 inch display monitor, an Intel Core i3 processor and it comes preinstalled with Windows 10 operating system. Personally, when choosing a laptop, I don't like to choose anything other than an Intel Core processor, and this is no exception. The Core i3 CPU has a whopping 2,000 MHz processor speed, which is 400 MHz faster than the Celeron and Pentium model CPUs.

The laptop also comes with 4 GB RAM and a 1Tb hard-drive – lots of room for storing files, photos and videos. The graphics card is a standard on-board Intel GPU – so not great for gaming, but it will handle simple stuff. If you are a student looking for a new laptop, then you will be happy to know that this will popular applications such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Premier Elements and Adobe Photoshop Elements.

For those that like to upgrade their machines, Asus have unfortunately made it difficult for you to do so, with the base of the laptop being designed so that it would require the entire bottom to be removed, and not individual sections like you might see on other notebooks.

The design of the laptop does look nice with the brush aluminium appearance, but this only covers the fact that is actually a plastic build, and in-places feels very cheap. The inside of the laptop demonstrates the quality, as it flexes when pressure is applied to the body.

The keyboard is something that I am not a fan of either; it does not contain a backlight and nor does it have LED indicators (caps and num locks).

The sound quality is pretty decent though, boasting a built-in Sonic Master sound speaker system – great for students listening to music and watching YouTube videos. These speakers are round in design and have 19.4 cc chamber that provides quality sound and bass tones.

Also, for those students that want to contact friends and family from far away, it comes with a webcam with an in-built microphone.

Overall this laptop is very basic, hence the price. So, if you are wanting something a bit more 'flashy', then I would not recommend this laptop. From initial boot up, it is pretty quick, despite the annoying bloat ware you get as standard with laptops these days; but, be wary that this may change in a couple of months of use.

The Asus X540LA does have some great features such as the speakers, USB-C port, 5-hour battery life and the weight and for the price, it will make a great addition to for any student, whether it be school, college or university. It most certainly is not packing all the punches, but for what it can do, it does it well and is ideal for doing basic tasks.