



Dear Secondary School Parents,

We are one week down into remote learning! Congratulations on surviving the week! For some of you, you may have children who are self-motivated and enjoying the sense of freedom around their learning and the ability to progress more at their own pace. For many of you (myself included), you may have children who are not so naturally inclined and remote learning for them is a drain and a constant struggle to remain on track. Whatever side you fall on, please know that as staff at Shire Christian School, we are here for your children and want the best for them.

As we head into the weekend and another week of remote learning to follow, I want to give you a few reminders.

Take regular breaks

Firstly, please encourage your children to take regular breaks away from the screen and get some fresh air and exercise. As I am sure you are aware, it is draining sitting in front of a laptop all day and our bodies and minds need regular breaks. That is why we have deliberately shortened the length of periods and lessened the quantity, not quality, of work expected to allow for time between classes to stretch and refresh.

Learning at home poster

I hope you have found this [poster](#) helpful so far in providing a snapshot into the timetable for what the days look like and thinking through some simple guidelines to follow for connecting with the class content over Zoom and Google Classroom.

Roll marking and work completion

The roll is marked by each classroom teacher at the start of each lesson on zoom. If your child is absent from pastoral care you will receive a text message. Please reply to this message stating their reason for absence. If your child is not completing the set work on a regular basis, you may receive a call or an email to check in from the classroom teacher to touch base and to see how your child is doing.

Mental health help links

We understand that for some, extended periods of lockdown is a significant challenge for your emotional and mental wellbeing. Our school counsellor has put together a very helpful [guide](#) with some tips and resources to help manage



through this time. Please encourage your children to reach out if they are finding it difficult to manage and need some extra support.

Who to contact and when?

We are happy to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's learning in a specific subject, please contact their classroom teacher. If the concern is pastoral related, please contact their pastoral care teacher. The best way to contact them is via email.

My final reminder to you and your children during this period of lockdown is to seek God's love for you. This morning I shared a few verses with staff from the Bible and encouraged staff to be reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (especially lockdown!), and so challenged everyone to seek after Christ and find ultimate rest in Him. It is my prayer that during this time your family may too see Christ's love for you and find rest in Him.

Romans 7:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Thank you for partnering with us,

Mr Peter Richardson
Acting Head of Secondary School