



# MOUNT BARKER HIGH SCHOOL

*Not for ourselves alone*

Wednesday, 21 July 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you would be aware, the situation is changing daily regarding the community and government response to COVID-19. As a school, we monitor and respond to advice and directions provided by SA Health and the Department for Education (DfE).

Yesterday the Premier announced that South Australia was entering a 7-day lockdown with schools closing. As we communicated yesterday, today is a student free day to support our staff to prepare for lessons going online from Thursday.

## Access to Online Teaching and Learning

As a school, we use Daymap as our Learner Management System to provide lesson notes, homework and assessment, and monitor student attendance. During Online Learning, we also utilise Google Doc's and Microsoft Teams. These platforms support video conferencing and live interaction to supplement our use of Daymap. In addition, students need to be checking and using their emails for correspondence with key people and to receive instructions in addition to Daymap.

An e-Learning handbook for parents is [available here in draft form](#) and a final copy will be sent to you tomorrow. Please see this guide for details about how online learning will work and how each platform will be used during online learning. The Department requires us to sight or speak with each student each day. This will happen during House Time each day when students need to join a Microsoft Teams meeting so that their House Teacher can see or speak with them. Students who miss this meeting will be followed up by phone.

During the lockdown students who would normally attend VET will join their normal school lessons on their VET days. If you have concerns regarding your child/ren's ability to access online learning due to limited or no Wi-Fi access, please contact Carl Schilling via email: [dl.0783.ictadmin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0783.ictadmin@schools.sa.edu.au) and we will work with you to arrange a solution.

## Timetable

In preparing for online learning last year, we considered various approaches to support student wellbeing and engagement. One of the considerations was how much time students would be engaged with online learning. Since our preparation last year, we have learnt from the online learning experiences of education systems in Victoria and NSW. As a result, we know that our current timetable is well designed to support students to learn online.

## Communication

We will continue to update you via email and share a range of resources via our social media.

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community, we will be notified by SA Health immediately and will follow their direction. Parents, caregivers, staff and students will be informed by SMS and email about what is required.

We will be sending a test SMS to confirm recorded mobile contact details. If you do not receive an SMS by 5pm, please email [dl.0783.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0783.admin@schools.sa.edu.au) providing your name, student name and updated mobile contact as soon as possible.

Regards,  
Warren Symonds  
Principal



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**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

# TIPS FOR SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

## Parent & Caregiver Guide

### WORKSPACE



Support your teenager to create a dedicated workspace for learning in a central location. Remind them to keep it neat and tidy and free of distractions.

Encourage your teenager to be organised and begin each day checking Daymap and downloading resources for every lesson.

### BUILDING YOUR ROUTINES



Support your teenager to establish routines, such as getting up at the same time each morning.

Encourage them to take regular breaks and drink water.

Ensure that your teenager includes physical activity and face-to-face interactions at home every day.

### BUILD RELATIONSHIPS



Make contact with subject teachers if you have any concerns about learning or contact the HG teacher /relevant wellbeing support if you have any other concerns about engagement with online learning. Encourage your teenager to use technology in a positive way to check in regularly with friends and family.

### BE PATIENT



When we first go online for learning things might not always work as expected or planned.

Be sure to communicate to us if your teenager is having difficulty accessing or using Daymap or Teams.

Be patient and kind to yourself, this is a big change for us all.