



Aquinas College

Learning at Home

A Handy Guide for Parents

Introduction

- This guide is designed to help you in supporting your child(ren) as they learn remotely. First and foremost, we must all accept the situation.
 - We must accept that things are going to be different. How long is unknown.
 - We must accept that the learning progress of our students is contingent upon their productivity at home. They will need to manage their time carefully and be supported in this by you.
 - Our teachers will create an environment to support their learning, but our students must commit to their studies to facilitate ongoing progress.
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Keep a wellbeing focus at the forefront

- The health and wellbeing of your family is the most important thing to maintain at this time.
- We are moving into uncharted territory, and we will inevitably encounter some difficulties. You will need to support your child(ren) as they work through these difficulties.
- Students are being asked to work in manageable chunks of time, to take breaks and to manage their screen time. Check-in on them regularly to make sure they are coping.

Support your child(ren) in establishing routines

- Learning remotely in a pandemic should not aim to replicate the school environment. We are not expecting students to work from a timetable as they would in school, but we are expecting them to establish a routine and stick to it.
- Reinforce to your child(ren) that they need to be deliberate and structured in their application to learning activities.
- Students have been encouraged to set up a workspace. Encourage them to use a consistent space at home that will be distraction-free.
- Remove your child(ren)'s mobile phone from them while they are working to enable them to maximise the learning opportunities and minimise their distractions.

Ongoing Pastoral Care

- Our College is committed to the continued pastoral care of our students while they are learning remotely.
- Teachers have been encouraged to make contact with you should they encounter a student who is not engaging in their learning activities. Have confidence that our teachers will approach this delicately as there could be a range of reasons why this might be the case. Our Deans will also monitor these communications and reach out to support you if they establish a pattern.
- We acknowledge that this will be a difficult time for some of our students. Our pastoral care team, including Deans, our Head of Learning Support and Guidance Counsellors, are available to support our students.
- You are encouraged to make contact with your child's Dean if you would like additional support.

Year 7 Dean	Mrs Kate Krauts	kkrauts@aquinas.school.nz
Year 8 Dean	Mr Peter Braid	pbraid@aquinas.school.nz
Year 9 Dean	Mrs Rebecca Holmes	rholmes@aquinas.school.nz
Year 10 Dean	Ms Jacq Burrell	jburrell@aquinas.school.nz
Year 11 Dean	Mr Leon Roberson	lroberson@aquinas.school.nz
Year 12 Dean	Mrs Marlize Greyling	mgreyling@aquinas.school.nz
Year 13 Dean	Mrs Paula Skelton	pskelton@aquinas.school.nz

I.T. Support

- For support with the College's suite of productivity tools (Microsoft Office 365 and Google Apps for Education), please contact our IT Manager Jonno Persson (jpersson@aquinas.school.nz) or his assistant Amber McKenzie (amckenzie@aquinas.school.nz).
- During this period of learning remotely, our school filtering system, Family Zone has been set to "Rest Days" which means that students will have unfiltered internet access. We would encourage you to set age-appropriate filtering through the Family Zone app as you deem appropriate.
- Note that you can use this app to set study times and play times for students. Any questions, please see www.familyzone.com/aquinas-nz or call their helpline: **0800 444 90**