**Parent Focus Article**

**WEEK 5**

**Middle – Home Learning Area**  
**Senior – Home Study Area**

**Learning Goals - at the end of this week your child should have:**

- An acceptance that learning/study at home plays a big part in them becoming self-managing, self-monitoring and self-adjusting.
- A positive growth mindset to set up their home learning/study area appropriately and awareness of why and when to apply themselves in their learning/study.
- A proactive attitude to use the weekly Habits of Mind and Thinking Tools to strive, thrive and flourish in their living, learning and thinking.

**Value for Life - Efficiency**

Identify three positive behaviours which show Efficiency at home, then at school and then in the community.

**Wellbeing Focus**

To build students’ independence and positive growth mindsets to learn alone, it is essential that their learning extends to settings well beyond the classroom. One of these settings is at home. For students to reap the maximum possible benefits from their learning at home, a special place to study is highly desirable.

Just as we have specific work areas in our workplaces, this area to study should ideally be used only for that purpose. Over time their brains will build patterns that associate that place with study, thus developing it as a habit and reducing barriers to getting started. Plenty of colour in this area stimulates students’ brains; splash it with colour.

Many families find space a problem and a special study area very difficult to provide. In these cases, the best scenario is to create as many of the features for an efficient learning/study area as possible e.g. well-lit, quiet, warm and comfortable, a copy of their Home Learning/Study Timetable and a Forward Planner on the wall, well resourced with stationery and a computer, away from distractions, especially TV and loud music on their iPods. Quiet rhythmic music can actually enhance learning.

Studying in front of the TV is a total waste of time, because very little, if any, of the subject matter will be absorbed by students and embedded in their memories. Their brains’ attention cannot compete with the brightness, noise and movement on a TV screen. It’s like trying to fill a bucket with a hole in it.

Also, studying in bed is not beneficial. Firstly, the brain relates bed to sleep, not study, and efficient learning won’t occur. Secondly, studying in bed will effect sleep patterns and reduce the students’ quality of health.

“*I do not seek, I find.*” Pablo Picasso