Dear Parent/Caregiver

Welcome to the 2016 school year. I hope this year will be a successful one for you and your family.

This year teachers at your school will be working with your son or daughter to help your teenager learn and make as much progress as possible. Your school will be keen to work alongside you to ensure that your son or daughter is successful academically, socially and developmentally.

Every day at school matters for this development so it’s really important that your teenager is attending school to get the most out of their education.

While we all know it’s important, it isn’t always easy to support teenagers with their schoolwork. On the back of this letter are some ideas and resources I have found helpful to date with my kids, or have been recommended to me by other parents. I hope they are useful for you.

Schools welcome your involvement in your child’s education, and if you have any questions, please ask them. As you know, kids learn best when parents/caregivers and schools work together.

If you are able, I encourage you to get involved in your child’s school - whether it is through the governing council or volunteering at school events. To make it easier for you to volunteer, the government has recently made some changes to the screening clearance process if you volunteer to support your child at school. Please contact your school if you would like further information in relation to these changes, or visit the website at www.decd.sa.gov.au.

I am proud of the high quality education that we provide in our schools. A strength of our public schools is our community involvement, and working together we can continue to make your school even better.

Yours sincerely

Susan Close
Minister for Education and Child Development

27/01/2016
Simple things you can do to support your son or daughter:

- Talk to them about current affairs and ask them how it links to their learning at school
- Talk positively about science and mathematics and encourage them to ask for help if they need it
- Read the same book as them so you can discuss the story, themes and characters together
- Encourage them to share their creative projects with you
- Provide a comfortable space at home for them to do homework and support them to complete it on time
- Encourage them to use their diary effectively to manage their time and stay on top of deadlines

Some helpful resources:

- The curriculum for Years 8 -10: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/
- The curriculum for Years 11-12: https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/
- An app to help you unlock your child’s learning potential: https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/high-school
- Parent easy guides, including living with young people: http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au/
- A wide range of parenting information, including talking to teens: http://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/teens.html