

Dear Chris,

A letter of advice

I'm sorry to hear your problems. Here is some advice for you.

About your problem of privacy, I think you could go to the bathroom or outside of your flat to answer the call when you want to talk about secrets or gossip with your friends on the phone. This means avoiding the problem of your family spying or unintentionally hearing what you are saying and you can talk with your friends face to face instead.

Hong Kong is limited in land resources. Many apartments in Hong Kong are tiny and crowded with people. Therefore, the government and some charities have opened some self-study rooms for those students who are not able or do not feel comfortable studying at home. Apart from a self-study room, you could go to the library. There are many benefits to study in the library. There are computers which are available for students to borrow, books or references for students to do research and in the library it is quiet enough for you to concentrate on your studies.

Teachers are always willing to help you when you have got any problems in your homework. You don't have to worry about what you would do badly at school if you ask your teachers for help. The Internet is another way to help you with your homework. You could ask or search your questions on the Internet. Ask.com is one of the useful websites to ask for help. I always browse it to search for some extra knowledge.

Quitting school sounds like a terrible idea. Earning money is not as easy as you think. Please focus on your learning. If you really need money, what about thinking to apply a part-time job? The working times of part-time jobs are flexible. Like me, I'm working as a tutor. I work after school around 4:30pm. However, even if your academic performance is not good enough to teach the kids - no worries! There are many choices such as McDonald's worker and Outback steakhouse server. A part time job is good for you to get more working experience and improve your capability or your social skills. It is such a "kill two birds with one stone" idea.

Be or not be happy depends on you. Change your mind and you could change your world. Please be positive and try different ways to solve your problem. Cheer up! Hope my advice helps you!

Best regards,
Nicky