Ranking: 3rd

9th December, 2013

Dear Chris,

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 calls when you want to talk about secrets or gossip with your friends on the phone. This way, you will be avoiding the problem of your family spying or unintentionally hearing what you're 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 not comfortable studying at home. Apart from these self-study rooms, you could go to the library. There are many benefits of study in a library. There are computers which are available for students, you can borrow books or references 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 with your homework. You don't have to worry about doing 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 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 of applying for a part-time job? The work hours of a part-time job are flexible. For instance, I'm working as a tutor. I work after school around 4:30pm. However, if your academic performance is not good enough to teach kids, no worries! There are many choices besides being a tutorial teacher, such as being a McDonald's worker, or an Outback Steakhouse server. A part-time job is good for you in gaining more work experience and improves your capability and your social skills. This is a "kill two birds with one stone" idea.

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

Best regards, Nicky