

Year 7 Online Literacy

Supporting Year 7 students and their literacy through mentored reading has been a successful Lighthouse initiative over the past four years at Shepparton High School and was planned to be implemented at Greater Shepparton Secondary College starting Term 2 in 2020.

2020 has provided a new set of challenges, with COVID19 and the move to remote learning, the literacy program needed to adapt from face-to-face to online connection. Microsoft Teams has been used as the platform for this program, with all volunteers provided with training and on call IT support. 23 volunteers were identified and supported by Lighthouse to participate as mentors. The school identified 36 students from 18 classes most in need of literacy help and paired them in groups with a literacy mentor.

The online literacy program kicked off week 2 of Term 3, while students were still on campus. Each week the students and mentors have connected for 30 minutes via Teams to read through uploaded texts by sharing their screen.

This program successfully responded to COVID19 realities and has been able to provide a virtual experience to support students and increase connectedness for volunteers during the lockdown period. Despite teething issues around connecting to the Teams platform and student engagement during remote learning the program has received positive feedback from students, mentors and teachers and will likely continue online through Term 4.



Diverse collaborations.



Continuous learning.



Social connection.



Equity, access, inclusion, belonging, trust and respect.



Demonstrating and advocating.



Innovative ways of working.

Literacy mentoring has looked a little different in 2020, below is a Year 7 Literacy mentor's screen during a reading session.

