

Jonathan Nakad

High Achievers Speech

Good morning Mrs Hay, Members of the CLT, Teachers, guests and students - Wow it feels weird to say that again - and thank you for providing me with the opportunity to shed some light on the ever so "daunting" HSC experience. It feels like only moments ago that I was in the exact same position as the current year 12's, anxious to see what awaits. Anxious to see, whether to see it is truly the best year of your schooling life as everyone so zealously raves on about; spoiler alert: it is - but I'll get more into that later, anxious to see whether I'd get those marks I've always dreamed of, always had engraved in the back of my mind.

Now, HSC is a whirlwind of emotions which springs from many different sources - but I can guarantee you most of these emotions come from receiving marks - and it's inevitable! All of us have gone through it - we have gone through the experience of waiting tensely for your student number to be called. Especially when your English teacher is going through the overall feedback and you're just sitting there like, yeah I think I did that! Oh okay, maybe not that one, yep not that one either - oh okay just keep adding it the list Anndddddd I probably got 11/20.

But everyone goes through bad marks! I most certainly did - 12/20 For a Mod B essay, 40% for a 3 Unit Maths Yearly Exam, 16/25 For an Extension English Half-Yearly and there's plenty more! But, I'd rather not say them because my dad doesn't know about them and I think it's best if it stays that way!. See you wouldn't think those marks would reflect the abilities of myself and everyone sitting here - but it happens! No one has a "perfect HSC run", there will be bumps along the road - but it's all part of the process. Now in terms of dealing with bad marks, have a cry over it - be angry - blast your music and don't talk to anyone - But only for one Day or night! Don't let it be a long term burden, get up, go and see what you can do to do better and smash it when it really matters! In Year 9 I was ranked outside the top 90th of my grade in Science and because of that, I hated any aspect of Science. At the start of Year 10, I thought to myself, okay Jonathan, it's a new year and a fresh start - snap out of it. I put my head down and focussed ridiculously hard from then on out - and what was the outcome? I ended up ranking First in HSC Chemistry. So don't ever think it's too late - because the good thing with HSC, is that you always have a second chance.

Now I know just went on a ramble about marks, but it's time to address the most cliché saying of the HSC: "Your ATAR doesn't define you". And it's true, I have friends who received an 84 ATAR and got into an 87 course, a 73 into an 80, a 75 ATAR getting into the 88 ATAR Course of their dreams. But you know what does define your HSC experience - how you balance everything. HSC is an enigmatic paradox - a questioning of when am I going to get this essay done, wait I still have to finish this practice paper, but can I still go out tonight? Now Year 12 was the year I studied the most... but it was also concurrently the year I went out the most. It was the year where I learned to balance my priorities and my parties, my writings and my outings, and my exams with my cramming. The way I would approach it was - okay I want to go out tonight but I still have to finish this essay. If I had finished around 3 Quarters of what I wanted to - that's alright; I can go out and enjoy myself. But tomorrow - I don't get to sleep in, I have to wake up early and finish it. The most precious asset you have is your time because you get to a week before your exam periods and you're like - okay wow I've got to memorise all these scripts, go over all

of these topics - oh and I can't forget to do these practice questions. Nothing's worse than getting to a night before your English exam and being like "Okay, yeah maybe spending the last 3 hours of youtube probably wasn't the greatest idea". So just make sure you organise and prioritise, whether it be through using a study planner or having daily reminders on your phone, reward yourself when you deserve a reward.

See after all this talk about the aspect of individuality throughout the HSC, I've left the most critical aspect until the end. What will really get you through this monstrous journey? And it's simple - your cohort. No one understands more than what you are going through than the people who are going through it alongside you. People underestimate, and I most certainly did, the power of group study and really communicating your ideas. Study groups, collaborating, effective discourse on ideas and thoughts. Nothing is more powerful than a group of young inquisitive minds working in unison. For me and my friends, we would always group call during our exam periods, just simply communicating while we were studying, making the process enjoyable, and most importantly - helping and supporting each other whenever it is most needed. So just please make sure that you really cherish the power of your cohort because, despite all the stresses and ups and downs, I would do this process all again with these beautiful people sitting alongside of me here. So enjoy it while you can, because in a blink of an eye, you'll all be up along the veranda graduating together, finishing your last exam together - and maybe even here right now in my position, giving a speech to the current Year 11's - reminiscing on the great times you'll never get back.

So to end in typical high achiever fashion, student number 29814651 signing out for the last time. Hello

Thank you.

Greta White

High Achievers Speech 2019

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. – BB King

Good afternoon Mrs Hay, College, staff and students, my name is Greta White, college vice captain of last year, hopefully you all remember me, and hello to the new year sevens. Firstly, id like to thank the college for providing me with this opportunity to speak to you all today, about the important role the college and teachers play during our high school years, and to show appreciation for their never ending support.

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

This quote really resonates with me and is the perfect example of our school St Pats.

Our teachers and all our staff members here, are what prove to us that learning can not be taken away from us.

Our teachers have been an epitome of strength and a great pillar of support to all of us.

To our teachers and staff members, thank you.

You have been mother and father figures to us all, especially in times of when we needed your guidance.

You have been strict when the situation called for it.

You have always kept your doors open, providing support and life lessons to us all.

You have been sometimes annoying and repetitive with the study and HSC talks since year 7, but we all know it's for our best interests

You have been as kind, caring and loving as a friend, and above all, you have been so approachable, ready to welcome every student into this amazing school community.

It is these qualities that make up our school community here at ST Patricks, giving us the beautiful gift of learning, growing, to be ever striving and faithful, something which can not be taken away from us.

A great example of this, is our impressive 2018 HSC results, where our school moved from 140th in the state in 2017, to 88th in the state in 2018, which is a massive improvement, as we improved by 52 ranks, and just shows the extreme support of all our teachers and every member of the college.

So, once again.

Thank you to each member of the college for making our success a reality, and may we continue to strive for excellence and success, building bright, happy and healthy futures for us all.

Thank you.