

Good morning everyone

I was at St Francis from R-12 and I have so many wonderful memories of my time at the College. From knocking my two front teeth out on the first day, to the amazing Sydney and Melbourne Arts trips, and enduring survival camp, I've grown immensely as a person throughout my time here at the College.

My Year 12 was a pretty interesting year. I did Math Methods, Specialist Maths, Physics and Chemistry and received Dux awards for 3 of those subjects. On top of that, I also worked at Maccas an average of 30 hours every week. Despite this, I still made time to hang out with friends on occasion and enjoy myself throughout the year. I have to take the time here to thank Mabel Day for being a constant study companion as well as a dear friend throughout the year. Without her dedication to studying and constant desire to understand content I never would've had half the motivation to accomplish anything all year. Just in general, having someone else that you can work with without getting distracted helps a lot. It's super easy to let yourself down, but if I didn't get up at 6am to go gym with Mabel some Sunday mornings I would've been letting her down and that's a big motivator to get up and out of the covers.

So obviously in saying all of that, time management is a really key skill if you want to do well, or even if you just want to make life less stressful. As some of my close friends would know, I used Google Calendar to schedule my entire Year 12 and honestly it was a life saver. I put in school, work, and sport first, then looked for the gaps where I could study. This gave me something to do each day other than study, which broke up the cycle and made sure I didn't burn out. I also have the privilege of enjoying my job, so it wasn't mentally draining to work so much, and actually put me in a better mood after a shift to get study done.

I also maximised my time in all of my study lessons and class. Instead of watching movies I would be doing some extra reading on physics or extra practice questions for maths. I would constantly ask my teachers questions, and I'd like to thank Mr Andrews and Ms Clements especially for putting up with me throughout the year. Their dedication and commitment allowed me to succeed throughout the year and I couldn't have done it without them.

Since finishing school, I've moved house, started a new job, and most recently, decided to defer my double degree in mechanical engineering and finance for a year to spend some time on myself. Now, all of my friends, and especially my mum, thought this was a terrible idea, saying things like "What if you don't go back?" or "What if you forget everything?" or, my favourite: "You're too smart to work at Maccas". Thanks Mum. And this really made me think about how different life is after Year 12. There's no structure, every day is something new, but at the same time there's pressure to succeed from everyone else as well. Everyone expects you to live up to their expectations, no matter how wild they may be. But at some point, you have to realise that making everyone else proud isn't going to necessarily make you happy and content. Doing what you want to do and setting out to accomplish what you want is the key. It's terrifying thinking about going to Uni when I'm not 100% certain why I want to go or what I hope to get out of it.

I suppose the point I'm trying to get across here is yes, absolutely work hard and focus on school, but don't give up the things that make you happy. The things that give you a purpose in life. Play sport, watch Netflix, work that job. Without these things, the only thing in your life is study, and at the end of the year when you've finished Year 12, what's left? All you can really do is work to improve yourself and make YOU happy.

Thank you

**Wil Size**

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