PROSPECTUS FOR SUCCESS
The Junior Campus

Our Junior Campus is a unique setting in Victoria, as it comprises only Year 7 and Year 8 students. We ease new students into secondary school life in a way that is not too radical a transition from primary school. We build confidence and consolidate on essential learnings. Our facilities are specifically designed to meet this age-group’s learning and developmental needs.

Our Junior Campus is now positioned as a flagship school. It has received international attention for design and learning capacity. We are proud recipients of the following awards:

- International CEFPI Award – Best new construction of a major facility
- Australian Chapter of the Council of Education – Award for Facilities Design
- The Project of Distinction Award by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) for Best Middle School/Junior High

Our focus is on educating the individual. Our teaching model maximises student learning outcomes by personalising the learning for each and every student. Our students learn best from a variety of sources and have access to multiple teachers in varying group sizes that match the student’s individual interests, needs and learning goals.

Students and staff are now actively engaged in new and innovative programs which are very different from the closed classroom of the past, where we saw one teacher with students undertaking teaching and learning programs in isolation. Each class in most subjects is broken into three segments to ensure we cater for each student’s learning style – in small groups, large groups and in private study.

A typical class is made up of...

- 1/3 Direct Instruction
- 1/3 Independent Learning
- 1/3 Cooperative and Collaborative Learning

Mount Waverley Secondary College, a proven ‘High Demand School’ for enrolment has a long, proud history of outstanding academic achievement. Most of our graduating students enter tertiary institutions due to our highly personalised, discipline based curriculum.

Set over two campuses within a short walking distance, our College is made up of

Junior Campus
(Years 7 and 8 only)

Senior Campus
(Years 9-12)

Our College has a strong Code of Conduct to ensure that our students enjoy a positive and safe learning environment. A strict Uniform Policy and an expectation of excellence sets the tone for inquisitive learning in a comfortable and ordered environment.

Each Campus is supported by a professional student services team comprised of welfare, careers and health professionals. Student attendance and punctuality are closely monitored and we are proactive in identifying students who may be at risk through an attendance monitoring and tracking system.
iPad Program

Our iPad program actively and creatively engages students in their learning and is used as a companion device alongside our College owned computer technology. Text books are accessed through a portal that allows teachers to personalise the content for students. Individual chapters are chosen from hundreds of Australia’s leading educational publishers creating relevant reading that caters for different abilities within the classroom.

Staff and students collaborate and use iPads as a tool that develops the student as an information seeker, analyser and evaluator, problem-solver and decision-maker. They will use apps which enable them to;

- Deepen their understanding of new concepts and skills
- Communicate their understanding of class material in real time to the teacher
- Communicate their findings and become publishers of their own work.

Our commercial grade, filtered wifi allows seamless connection to a safe network for inquiring minds, while our Handwriting Policy (70% of work is hand written) ensures a well-rounded education.

Curriculum

Year 7 Subjects

- Music
- Art
- English
- Literacy
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Health & Physical Education
- Health
- LOTE - Languages other than English (German or Japanese)
- Mathematics (integrating spreadsheets and databases)
- Science (integrating Robolab)
- Geography (integrating research skills)
- History (integrating research skills)
- Technology – Information Technology
- Materials and Technology – Textiles/Wood/Foods

Opportunities for Year 7 & 8 students:

- Enrichment class in core subject areas for high achieving students
- Leadership Roles and responsibilities for Year 7 & 8 students as Captains and members of the Junior Action Group
- After school Study program
- Lunchtime Activities program
- Active Sports program
- Instrumental Music Program
- Debating Team
- Orientation Camp for Year 7 students
- Outdoor Education for Year 8 students
- Challenge Program for Year 8 students
- Swimming, Gymnastics, Economics, Maths Games, Robotics, SYN Radio
- College Production

Year 8 Subjects

- Drama
- Visual Communication
- Music
- Visual Arts - Ceramics
- English
- Literacy
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Health & Physical Education
- Health
- LOTE - Languages other than English (German or Japanese)
- Mathematics (integrating spreadsheets and databases)
- Science (integrating Robolab)
- Geography (integrating research skills)
- History (integrating research skills)
- Materials and Technology – Foods
Senior Campus

Our Senior Campus is a well equipped facility, incorporating the Unicorn Theatre, industry standard hospitality facility, separate VCE Study Centre, a modern cafe style canteen and a state-of-the-art science, information technology and general classrooms. A music centre with specialist recording facilities, practice rooms and performing areas enrich student life at the College.

Catering for 1200 students, the Campus is a vibrant place to learn with an array of extra-curricular opportunities for all students:

- Tutor sessions offered by teachers
- Study program for senior students – above and beyond what is taught in the classroom
- University style silent study area for VCE students and a group discussion facility
- Monash University Enhancement Program for high achieving students
- Acceleration and enrichment programs
- Competitions in English, Poetry, Debating, Mathematics, Chemistry, Science, IT, Public Speaking at local, state and national levels
- Lunchtime sporting, artistic and cultural activities
- Study Tours to Germany and Japan
- Leadership roles and responsibility throughout Years 9-12
- Year 10 Work Experience, Careers and D Day
- Annual College Production
- Mentor Groups, focussing on pastoral care, educational pathways, vocational and careers advice
- Holiday Revision Program for Year 12 students
- Valedictory Dinner, Presentation Night
- Year 11 Fancy Dress Ball
- Year 12 Formal
- Guardian Angels (Year 7 and Year 12 peer support program)

### Year 9 Subjects

- Drama
- Introduction to Journalism
- Media
- Music
- Visual Art – Art
- Visual Art – 3D Art and Ceramics
- Visual Communication - Designing for Celebrities
- Visual Communication - Graphic Communication
- English
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Pathways & Literacy Skills (PALS)
- Health
- Physical Education
- Sport Education

### Year 10 Subjects

- English Enhancement
- English Mainstream
- English Essential
- Maths Methods 1 & 2
- Maths Progressive
- Maths General
- Maths Standard
- Maths Foundation 1&2
- Maths Life
- Health and Physical Education (Lifestyle)
- Health and Physical Education (Advanced)
- Law and order
- Current Issues in Economics and Finance
- Money Makes the World Go Around
- Tyrants, Terror and Total War
- American History – Dream or Nightmare?
- General Science
- Biochemistry
- Physical science
- Life Science
- English Literature
- English as an Additional Language
- PALS
- Introduction to VCE Chemistry & Physics
- Health and Human Development
- History - Twentieth Century
- Revolutions
- Information Technology
  - IT – Software Development
  - Languages
    - Chinese as First Language (3 and 4)
    - German
    - Japanese
- Legal Studies
- Literature

### Year 11 and 12 Subjects

- Accounting
- Art
- Australian and Global Politics
- Biology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- Drama
- Economics
- EnglishESL
- English Language
- Food and Technology
- Health and Human Development
- History - Twentieth Century
- Revolutions
- Information Technology
  - IT – Software Development
  - Languages
  - Chinese as First Language (3 and 4)
  - German
  - Japanese
- Legal Studies
- Literature
- Mathematics
  - Foundation Mathematics 1 and 2
  - Further Mathematics
  - General Mathematics
  - Mathematical Methods
  - Specialist Mathematics
- Media
- Music Performance
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Product Design and Technology
  - Wood
- Psychology
- Studio Arts – Photography
- Studio Arts – 3D Art & Ceramic
- Systems Engineering
- Visual Communication and Design
- VET – Hospitality / Kitchen Operations
- VET – Information Technology
VCE Achievers - Class of 2014

MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE – NOT YOUR AVERAGE SCHOOL

Mount Waverley Secondary College is a traditional, non-select entry, co-educational government school. The success of our students is the culmination of a comprehensive 7 to 12 curriculum supported by high quality, dedicated teachers and support staff, where students are taught the skills to succeed as independent learners. Our students work together as a team and with their teachers in a partnership. They know that they can only achieve their individual personal best when everyone has high expectations and is working together whether it is in class, in study periods or at home.

Class of 2014 – an outstanding performance

2014 ATAR Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATAR SCORE</th>
<th>NO OF STUDENTS</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE ROUNDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-99.99</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89.99</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79.99</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69.99</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59.99</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49.99</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39.99</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-29.99</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 249 VCE students attempted their VCE
- Top ATAR score of 99.95
- 4 students scored over 99
- 660 students (25%) scored 90 or more (24% in the top 10% of the state)
- 42% scored 80 or more (42% in the top 20% of the state)
- Mean Study Score was 31.58
- Median ATAR Score was 74.95
- 11% of study scores > 40
- 4 perfect scores of 50
- Chemistry, Specialist Maths (2), English as an Additional Language

ATAR results for the last 5 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATAR SCORE</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.00-99.95</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.00-89.95</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Twin Top Marks

ATAR 95.45 (Brydon), 96.95 (Kael)

Bachelor of Commerce (University of Melbourne)

Mount Waverley has some outstanding teachers, who promoted a comfortable learning environment, with engaging and interesting classes. There is an emphasis on self-learning; rather than ‘spoon feeding’, encouraging students to research for themselves, and strive for success through their own motivation. This becomes greatly beneficial in university, where you learn by yourself with limited assistance.

Kael and I are now at the University of Melbourne, doing a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Economics and Finance. Whilst to succeed you must work exceedingly hard and be very self-motivated, these teachers were of supreme importance in VCE, and provided us with an excellent learning opportunity.

For the future Year 12s, the opportunity to succeed is in your grasp... it’s all about the effort you put in, and whether you make the most of the good teachers you have.

Brydon and Kael McLeod
% of students with a score of A/A+ on the exam:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>% of students with A/A+ on Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as an Additional Language</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese as a First Language</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Maths</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of students with a study score of 40 or more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>% of students A/A+ on exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Maths</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as an Additional Language</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHD</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Students Behind the Results

Erin Washington

ATAR 97.25
Arts (Monash University)

Year 12 really is quite the balancing act and it doesn’t take much to make you feel as if you’re way out of your depth. At first it seems terrifying, especially if you haven’t already done a Unit 3 & 4 subject – every assessment you do counts towards that one number that you think will sum up your entire high school existence. Take it from me though, you will be fine. Year 12 will be the best year you’ve had at high school so enjoy every minute. If I survived it then you sure can! If you’re still worried I’m sure you’re not alone, so here’s my short guide to surviving Year 12.

1. Work hard.
I know this one sounds pretty self explanatory but this year is about doing the best that you personally can do. The way I’ve always seen it is that if you’re doing VCE there’s no point not trying; you’re in for the long haul so you might as well give it everything you’ve got. Even if the course you’re looking to get into doesn’t have a set ATAR or you’re sure you can make the cut-off, aim that little bit higher and push yourself that little bit further. You wouldn’t want to look back on your high schooling and think “gee, I wish I’d done more”.

2. Don’t compare yourself to others.
While Year 12 might seem like a bit of a numbers game, there’s no use comparing yourself to everyone else. Push yourself to achieve YOUR best, not to beat the math whiz in your further class who’s also doing Specialist and got a 50 in Methods last year. Be proud of what you achieve and don’t feel disheartened if others seem to be doing better because everybody has their own capabilities and there’s plenty of things in life that you’re better at than that math whiz, I swear.

3. Don’t burn yourself out.
If you’ve been working on that History essay since you got home from school and it’s now 3am it is DEFINITELY time to put down the pen. It seems like there’s more to do than you have time for, especially if you have commitments besides just school, but knowing when to have some downtime is important. Sleep might seem overrated too but you actually can’t live off caffeine (trust me, a lot of the class of 2014 tried). If you’re feeling overwhelmed then it’s time to prioritise: figure out what you need to do, what you want to do, if you can drop a shift at work this weekend, how important that new episode of Game of Thrones is and so on.

4. Don’t let school take over your life (at least until exams!).
You’ll be invited to a whole lot of 18ths this year, and whilst you naturally won’t be able to get to them all, this is a year for celebration. Give yourself some time to let loose and enjoy yourself! Year 12 is an amazing time to strengthen friendships so don’t hide yourself away at your desk 24/7, you’re a teenager and you do need some fun.

5. Enjoy it.
The staff at Mount Waverley really go out of their way to make sure you’re supported through the year and also to provide you with heaps of fun times to let you de-stress a little where possible. I know for sure that my Year 12 wouldn’t have been the same without all the little (and big) things like Formal, Pi day, production, Laser Force, rock climbing... the list goes on. Grab your friends and sign up for things to make some great memories and experience all that Year 12 has to offer.

At the end of the day, your year is what you make it. You don’t need to listen to my tips, and trust me there’s plenty more I wish I could have given you, as long as you can look back on your year and the memories you made and be proud of what you’ve achieved.

Good luck class of 2015, not that you’ll need it, and I hope you have the time of your lives!
Time management will save you so much stress.

You’ve probably been told that so many times that you start rolling your eyes at that phrase. But your teachers, as nagging as they can be, have been through school and know a thing or two about how to deal with Year 12. Now back to time management, I always found it ridiculous to do what they advise you to do which is something like one hour per subject per night. Instead, really utilise your time at school and you won’t have to do as much study. I know that school is where you see all your friends and socialise but when you’re in class, you might want to consider telling your friend to be quiet for your benefit. Sure they might think you’re a nerd but if that friend really cares about you then they’ll know to respect your wishes. People underrate class time, that in itself sounds nerdy but who cares, you spent pretty much your whole life working your way up to this year, you don’t want to do less than you can because you want to seem cool.

In the end, it’s only at school where you can prod your teachers for information, so make sure you do a lot of prodding. Ask and ask until you fully understand the concept because that will shave hours off home revision, of course be polite and if you’re holding up the class then maybe ask after the lesson. But I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH, ask your teachers until they start hiding from you. I’m aware it can be frightening to constantly bug teachers, I know that I didn’t want to waste their time but you have to realise that they are at school for YOU. They want to help you learn and succeed, so you might as well gather that courage and confront your teacher, they’re not that scary once you ask them questions, most aren’t ;)

Another thing to look out for is setting realistic goals, don’t say to yourself that you’ll do all your homework today because more often than not you won’t because it just seems like a huge work load. Instead, say you’ll do an hour of work throughout the week, if you feel like you’re on a roll and finish half of your workload in one night, great! If not, then you still would have done an hour’s work. I wrote all my homework on a whiteboard and rubbed off the work I did, so satisfying to do so, find a way that you can visually see your progress, it’ll do wonders for your motivation.

You can have a social life and still be very studious, you just have to make sure you don’t slack off too much which can easily happen, find something that motivates you and let it drive you every day. With your time being managed you’ll be able to spend more time with your friends and enjoy life. Year 12 shouldn’t only be about studying like crazy. Go out with your friends, try some new things, and GO TO SCHOOL EVENTS, they are definitely worth it. Go to Athletics and do one of every event with a friend and race them, that’s definitely a hilarious spectacle and a memory you won’t forget :)

Ultimately, it’s up to you how happy you’re going to be this year or next year or whatever context this passage is put in. It all boils down to you won’t because it just seems like a huge work load. Instead, say you’ll do an hour of work throughout the week, if you feel like you’re on a roll and finish half of your workload in one night, great! If not, then you still would have done an hour’s work. I wrote all my homework on a whiteboard and rubbed off the work I did, so satisfying to do so, find a way that you can visually see your progress, it’ll do wonders for your motivation.

You can have a social life and still be very studious, you just have to make sure you don’t slack off too much which can easily happen, find something that motivates you and let it drive you every day. With your time being managed you’ll be able to spend more time with your friends and enjoy life. Year 12 shouldn’t only be about studying like crazy. Go out with your friends, try some new things, and GO TO SCHOOL EVENTS, they are definitely worth it. Go to Athletics and do one of every event with a friend and race them, that’s definitely a hilarious spectacle and a memory you won’t forget :)

Ultimately, it’s up to you how happy you’re going to be this year or next year or whatever context this passage is put in. It all boils down to managing your time, make sure you use it effectively or you’ll find that you’ll have to miss outings with friends because you didn’t do your work earlier and have to cram an all nighter. It might be funny to talk about the next day but it’s not funny to miss an awesome night with your closest friends.

Pace yourselves, and annoy your teachers... with questions... politely... good luck.

---

**Jonah Fung**

**ATAR 98.9**

*Science/Engineering Honours (Monash University)*

---

**Mahtaa Mansouri**

**ATAR 95.4**

*Science (University of Melbourne)*

---

**Jonah Fung**

Science/Engineering Honours (Monash University)

Time management will save you so much stress.

You’ve probably been told that so many times that you start rolling your eyes at that phrase. But your teachers, as nagging as they can be, have been through school and know a thing or two about how to deal with Year 12. Now back to time management, I always found it ridiculous to do what they advise you to do which is something like one hour per subject per night. Instead, really utilise your time at school and you won’t have to do as much study. I know that school is where you see all your friends and socialise but when you’re in class, you might want to consider telling your friend to be quiet for your benefit. Sure they might think you’re a nerd but if that friend really cares about you then they’ll know to respect your wishes. People underrate class time, that in itself sounds nerdy but who cares, you spent pretty much your whole life working your way up to this year, you don’t want to do less than you can because you want to seem cool.

In the end, it’s only at school where you can prod your teachers for information, so make sure you do a lot of prodding. Ask and ask until you fully understand the concept because that will shave hours off home revision, of course be polite and if you’re holding up the class then maybe ask after the lesson. But I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH, ask your teachers until they start hiding from you. I’m aware it can be frightening to constantly bug teachers, I know that I didn’t want to waste their time but you have to realise that they are at school for YOU. They want to help you learn and succeed, so you might as well gather that courage and confront your teacher, they’re not that scary once you ask them questions, most aren’t ;)

Another thing to look out for is setting realistic goals, don’t say to yourself that you’ll do all your homework today because more often than not you won’t because it just seems like a huge work load. Instead, say you’ll do an hour of work throughout the week, if you feel like you’re on a roll and finish half of your workload in one night, great! If not, then you still would have done an hour’s work. I wrote all my homework on a whiteboard and rubbed off the work I did, so satisfying to do so, find a way that you can visually see your progress, it’ll do wonders for your motivation.

You can have a social life and still be very studious, you just have to make sure you don’t slack off too much which can easily happen, find something that motivates you and let it drive you every day. With your time being managed you’ll be able to spend more time with your friends and enjoy life. Year 12 shouldn’t only be about studying like crazy. Go out with your friends, try some new things, and GO TO SCHOOL EVENTS, they are definitely worth it. Go to Athletics and do one of every event with a friend and race them, that’s definitely a hilarious spectacle and a memory you won’t forget :)

Ultimately, it’s up to you how happy you’re going to be this year or next year or whatever context this passage is put in. It all boils down to managing your time, make sure you use it effectively or you’ll find that you’ll have to miss outings with friends because you didn’t do your work earlier and have to cram an all nighter. It might be funny to talk about the next day but it’s not funny to miss an awesome night with your closest friends.

Pace yourselves, and annoy your teachers... with questions... politely... good luck.

---

**Mahtaa Mansouri**

**ATAR 95.4**

*Science (University of Melbourne)*

---

**Mahtaa Mansouri**

VCE is over and so is high school! That thought has not hit me yet as I still feel like a scared 16 year old new to Mount Waverley Secondary College and terrified of everyone and everything.

I am so grateful to Mount Waverley Secondary College, all the wonderful teachers and all of my amazing friends, without whom I would have gone insane and horrifically failed VCE (even though that is impossible). The teachers worked so hard to teach us not only how to do well in the exams but how to do well in our future, scary, adult lives. They manage to push us with just enough force to stop us from wasting our time watching American TV shows and focusing on our studies.

Coming from a school where doing well was considered a talent and if you didn’t do well there was no point in trying, I was confident that I would go through VCE knowing I shouldn’t aim too high or even try too hard. However, within months MWSC as a whole managed to change my attitude. I was taught that anything is possible if I tried my best and that you always have the support of others when things don’t work out.

In MWSC, there is always a ‘friendly competition’ between the students but it is very different to ‘competition’. The best students in the year level always find time in their busy schedules to help the weaker ones so that we all strive towards success as a cohort. There is always a mastermind in the VCE study center who will be more than happy to help you with your work. I am appreciative to them for not only pushing me to do better but for helping me out.

This is such a cliché thing for me to say but Year 12 was one of the best years of my life (so far). Even though studying could be tiring and those final year exams are terrifying, between camps, Formal, laser tag, pyjama day, valedictory and many more fun activities, classes and SACs pass with a blink of an eye and soon all become memories of the past. I probably could have studied instead of wasting time deciding on a formal dress but it was those activities that gave me a good balance and stopped me from going crazy (and let’s be honest looking for formal dresses are fun).

Even though you may get headaches thinking about how many practice exams you have done or how many more you need to do in order to do well, it is all worth it. On 15th of December when you look at your results you forget about the headaches and celebrate. I was never the person who would make goals and dream but MWSC changed that. In my world only ‘smart kids’ got to get an ATAR above 90 and with some encouragement and hard work I learned that anyone, even I, could be one of those smart kids.

I may not be in the position to give advice to the class of 2015 but if I had to it would be don’t procrastinate, believe in yourself and always push yourself past your boundaries.

Lastly, in Year 12 it doesn’t matter if you are ranked number one in your school or last, what matters is that you try your best, never give up and most importantly learn from your mistakes.

Best of luck class of 2015! (:
Year 12, the final hurdle of your schooling. By now, you’ve probably heard that it’s wonderful, horrible, doable, or impossible, combined with handfuls of conflicting advice from teachers, students and parents alike. The truth? It’s subjective—everyone’s experiences are going to vary. But if you approach it right, it could truly be the best year of your school life, and certainly one of the most memorable.

One of the most potentially frustrating things to be pestered about as a Year 12 is definitely the persistent ‘what are you going to do after school?’ And let me tell you, it is perfectly okay not to have your entire future career planned out—most people don’t! However, it is a great idea to start looking at a wide range of courses or jobs even if you already have your heart set on one, as you can always change your mind. The scores needed for a course you are thinking about can also serve as great motivators throughout the year.

And if there’s one thing it’s easy to run out of, it’s motivation. For me, the promise of ice cream coupled with a quick episode of a good show always made practice essays seem so much more worthwhile! But it’s very easy to feel like you’re getting nothing done, or that there’s so much to do that you cannot possibly begin. I found that one of the best cures for this was to break tasks down, plan them out, and create a timetable for the day every morning. It sounds like it could be a hassle, but those 10 minutes of planning can end up saving you hours of procrastination and worry, and I cannot stress the importance of that enough.

Despite all of the study, Year 12 often goes down as the most enjoyable year of schooling for many of us. Packed with amazing activities like Laser Force, Formal, Valedictory, and those constant 18ths, you will have plenty of opportunities to release any built up stress and make some lasting memories. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed by the work, so it’s important that you persist with plenty of these activities inside and outside school. But aim for the golden mean—if you party too hard it will inevitably prevent you from doing your best, whilst not having enough downtime will quickly cause you to burn out.

Your final year can seem more important than anything else at times. But whilst your SAC results can sometimes disappoint you and your goals can seem far away at times, Year 12 is certainly not the be all and end all. It’s important to do your best, but it’s also important to relax and enjoy yourself. Most importantly, take care of yourself and reach out to a friend, family member or teacher whenever need help. There is always a path to your goals, and if you are persistent and passionate, you will get there. Best of luck, class of 2015—I believe in you!