

**Extracts from 2019 Dux Makenzie Veale's Speech
6 February 2020**



"It's important to recognise that your ATAR is not a holistic measure of your academic ability and to not associate it with your value as a person. It's a combination of natural ability and hard work. Everyone learns in different ways and for some it is harder and for others it is easier to learn.

While I studied quite a lot I also intake information best while reading and writing making it easier for me to test well in the HSC, as it is reading and writing. Just do the best you can do, try not to compare yourself to others instead love your personal growth because you are doing great for you.

Anyway here are my tips for the HSC;

Extra curricular. I loved being a part of everything St John's has to offer. School can be so much more fun when you involve yourself. Try out for the sports teams, do the school productions, join the social justice groups. I really think it was one of the best things about school.

My mum, my dad, my sister and my friends. I love them very much. I encourage you to find your support system, the people you lean on when you need to. I'm also very grateful for school because that's how I met some of my very best friends.

Work with your classmates. We shared all our notes and helped each with assessments. My best classes were where we worked together as a team.

Attendance is important, during Year 12 I only missed two full days of school. But when I did miss school it just made the work harder than it already was.

I personally didn't block out time for studying. I was very busy during Year 12 rarely having free time. So I basically took my notes with me everywhere and just studied when I had the time and that worked for me. Find how you study best.

Pinterest, I have a board of quotes and flowers that I looked at a lot and it made me very happy. Simple but effective.

Rely on your teachers they will save you. Honestly there is no way I would've got through last year without my teachers. I genuinely enjoyed going to class because I loved every single one of my teachers and classmates. I respect them so much. Thank you

I encourage you to find a role model who constantly inspires you to be a better person.

It's okay to get support. Talk about it, talk to a trusted adult, like your PALS teacher or Year Coordinator, tell your friends you're here for them, be kind to each other. Whatever you are going through school related or not, I have full faith you'll get through it, and one day you'll be so happy you won't even remember when you weren't.

School was hard at the same time it was beautiful and great. And for me I learned a lot about myself, my limits, how I want to treat people and who I want to be. If I leave you with absolutely anything I want you to try your absolute hardest to enjoy High School. Have fun, live while you're young, everything will be alright."