

2022 GRADUATION SPEECH



Ms Samantha Panettieri Class of 2012

“A jack of all trades is a master of none,
but oftentimes better than a master of some.”

I was never that person who was really good at one thing or who had just one passion. I had a miscellaneous array of interests that I ‘liked’ but nothing that I could say - ‘that’s my thing, and that’s the obvious career choice for me’. I’d heard the expression ‘jack of all trades’ and was like ‘yes, that’s me’ and then heard the second part ‘master of none’ and thought ‘oh no.’

During my University years I tried everything, which really is the best advice I could give anyone finishing school. I started a band with my friends, booked gigs, made an EP, a YouTube channel and a radio show. I worked a million different jobs and learnt that two minute noodles really could sustain a person. All that to say, that I found a lot more ‘trades’ not to master. But after I graduated from my three year media and communications degree I had realised that working in the Media industry just wasn’t my jam.

So I was back to square one. This time I had a HECs debt, a degree in Media and Communications, a part time job at Grill’d and yes I was fast becoming a ‘jack of many trades’. I actually loved my part time job at Grill’d so I decided to have a GAP year. During my GAP year I spent no time travelling, lots of time working, some time socialising and a medium amount of time developing a training platform for new employees. I won’t bore you with the details, but after pitching my grand plans to the CEO it became apparent that I really needed to know how people learn. Which took me back to University, (I know, 16 years of schooling wasn’t enough!?) this time I was going to study education.

When I began my Masters of Teaching, I actually didn’t intend to become a teacher, but rather I wanted to learn how people learn. Then I would be much better equipped to answer the questions the CEO had posed two years earlier. However, I fell in love with the creativity of teaching in a classroom. The challenge of getting the attention of twenty five grade 1s, and the skill needed to explain a maths concept in no more than 10 minutes. And so a plan began to emerge... I would become a primary school teacher.

So here I am today a ‘jack with many trades’; I can create cute content for social media I can host a radio show, play the cup song, teach a Zumba class, sing the alphabet to the tune of the mickey mouse theme song, and get the attention of 25 children by making random waterfall noises. I’m Sam, and I was today years old when I learnt the other part to the famous saying ‘a jack of all trades is a master of none, it is....

‘A jack of all trades is a master of none, but oftentimes better than a master of one’.

I have learnt that attempting to be a master of **one** limits us to only **one** potential. You have some many endless potentials, so I dare you to embrace the uncertainty of life and be a jack of all trades!